



BCSA NEWSLETTER

December 2010

BOXER WORDS

Fifa World Cup Soccer has been and gone! And so has the year!

And what a brilliant year it has been with our Boxers, we have crowned some of our BCSA dogs Champions in the show ring and in the working arena we have had some impressive results, in particular Jetaime's Imbuia of Hanubi (Tezula), so well done to those handlers that have persevered and have been suitably rewarded.

The Enid Rhodes Memorial Interclub Show which was held last month, November 2010, was a memorable one for us. It was the largest entry the Federation has seen in many years, some 88 entries, and Boxer Club stormed home with an impressive win and the trophy. And to top it all the Best In Show dog, Chiswick French Spice was one of our own members, Sally Young, so it was truly BCSA's day!

Some of our other members who did very well on the day were:



Sarah & Ian Tomlinson –
Casuma's Aerandir, 1st in male Laurel Wreath class
Polgara's Britannia, Female 4 Pt Major award

Magda Koekemoer –
Aramis vom Okeler forst, Best Opposite Sex Puppy
award.



Congratulations to Mathew and Tahla Ross who have qualified as Accredited Judges; both have had their first judging assignments and we look forward to seeing them in the ring again in 2011.

SHOW / WORKING RESULTS

We are very proud of Mathew Ross, one of our committee members as he has achieved something in the Working Field that very few South Africans have done:

IPO (Internationale Prüfungs Ordnung) is an FCI internationally standardised set of versatility tests that are presented at three levels of progressive degrees of difficulty. It is comprised of the three disciplines of tracking, obedience and manwork. There are very few qualified IPO trial helpers (assailants) in South Africa, so a workshop was hosted by Rotek German Shepherd Club to qualify more trial helpers during 2010 in an effort to help develop the sport in South Africa. In the interests of potentially developing IPO as part of the host of trials included under the auspices of the FBCSA, Mathew Ross participated in the trials and was qualified as an IPO helper during September 2010. This is a qualification endorsed by the FCI, meaning that his competence in both training for the sport, as well as facilitating at trials, is internationally recognised. **Well done** Mathew and we look forward to hearing of your first International assignment.

BCSA Champions of 2010...

- Caroweck's Pennyfeather of Scorpio – owned by Chris Levings
- Caroweck's Over the Moon – owned by Paul & Carol Marneweck
- Jetaime's Imbuia of Hanubi AD BH BT – owned by Mathew & Tahla Ross
- Polgara's Britannia – owned by Ian & Sarah Tomlinson (TBC by FCBSA)

Championship Points attained in 2010....

- Polgara's Bellerophon – owned by JP Zietsman
- Chiswick's Irresistible – owned by Sally Young
- Gersu's Teal'c – owned by Dawid Czekanowski
- Gersu's Tiger – owned by Marcel Roeland
- Jabari's Intrepid – owned by AL Quin

BCSA Companion Dog (BH) 2010

- Gersu's Tiger – owned by Marcel Roeland
- Tambay's Renoir – owned by Magda Koekemoer

Grand Champion & Sedhor Trophy winner

This year we had one dog that stood out above the rest, not just in BCSA, but in the entire Federation, this dog was awarded the Sedohr Trophy. It is an award for outstanding achievements by Boxers in disciplines other than the beauty show ring i.e. for working qualifications. Only Boxers that have a BT, AD, BH, Advanced WTS and Protection Dog qualifications are eligible for this trophy. The winner



Jetaime's Imbuia of Hanubi, AD BH BT

(owned by Mathew & Tahla Ross)

She also become a Champion in the show ring and has therefore, with the other 3 qualifications, already achieved and been awarded the title of **Grand Champion. Well done!**

UPCOMING EVENTS

NBC Match Meeting:	12 Feb 2011
BCSA Show:	19 February 2011. (The schedule has been sent out- see below)
Winner of Winners (WOW):	12 March 2011
NBC Championship Show:	16 April 2011 (changed from previously advertised)

BOXER CLUB OF SOUTHERN AFRICA CHAMPIONSHIP SHOW Saturday 19 FEBRUARY 2011

Unity College, Cedar Rd (between Uranium Rd & Broadacres Spar) Broadacres

MORNING

JUDGE: Mrs Sally Young (Johannesburg)

BENCHING: 08h30 JUDGING: 09h00

AFTERNOON

JUDGE: Mrs Uschi Wöstmann (Midrand)

BENCHING: 12h30 JUDGING: 13h00

ENQUIRIES: Mrs Helen Rennie 084 521 6587

ENTRIES CLOSE: 21 JANUARY 2011 INSKRYWINGS SLUIT

Entry Fee: R45.00 per class (catalogues included). Child, Junior & Teenager Classes R20.00

SPIROCERCA LUPI

Recent newspaper reports have brought this little-known parasite to the attention of the dog-owning public. We are seeing increasing numbers of cases of infestation, which, owing to the nature of the parasite are often only discovered once major damage has been done. Infestation with this worm can be life-threatening for your dog.

What is it and how is it spread?

It is a nematode (roundworm) which is transferred from one host to another through various intermediaries, including the dung beetle, reptiles (such as lizards), birds, and even chickens.

“I never saw a case during the 1970s, and saw the first few in the mid-1980s” says Professor Joop Boomker, of the Department of Veterinary Tropical Diseases, University of Pretoria. “There has been a gradual increase in cases seen over the past twenty years, but the number of incidents has risen sharply over the past twelve months.”

He believes there may be different reasons for this increase, but holds the personal view that it could be ascribed to the gradual but general increase in urban decay and unsanitary conditions in certain areas, and the associated accumulation of refuse. This degenerating level of hygiene poses general health risks, and could certainly contribute to an increase in the spread of many diseases and parasitic infestation, including that of *Spirocerca lupi*.

What is the life cycle of *Spirocerca lupi*?

The adult worm lives within fibrous, tumour-like masses (granulomas or nodules) in the oesophagus (throat) and stomach of the dog. The eggs it lays contain larvae, which are eaten by beetles. Inside the beetles, the eggs hatch and the larvae develop into more mature forms.

A dog can become infected by eating the beetle, or eating an animal such as a lizard or chicken, that ate a beetle. Then the larvae are released within the dog's stomach during the digestive process.

The larvae reach the aorta (the main artery in the body) via small arteries that drain the stomach. In the aorta they mature, a process which takes about three months, after which they burrow through the wall of the artery into the wall of the oesophagus, which lies very close to the aorta in the chest cavity.

In the oesophagus wall they form a swelling, known as a granuloma, in which the worms live. As they grow bigger, the granuloma grows bigger. This growth can result in pressure on the windpipe, pressure on the aorta and blockage of the oesophagus.

What damage is caused by the *Spirocerca* worms?

Where such a granuloma has formed on the oesophagus, a partial blockage and/or irritation will cause breathing problems, wheezing, coughing, and the dog may also vomit shortly after eating if the nodules occur in the stomach.

The animal may lose his appetite and weight loss can result. Nodules that put pressure on the airways in the chest can cause difficult breathing. They can also put pressure on the blood vessels in the chest, affecting blood circulation. If an adult worm stays in the aorta, the nodule that forms around it can cause a weakness of the aorta wall. The migration of the worms through the wall can also weaken it. If it ruptures, death follows very quickly from the massive bleeding.

Nodules caused by *Spirocerca lupi* can develop into cancer that can spread to other organs. An unusual sign of infection with this esophageal worm is abnormal bony changes and swelling of the legs of the animal, called hypertrophic osteopathy.

The exact mechanism by which this occurs is unknown, but it is seen when there are tumours or other masses in the chest. The swelling and bony changes may be observed before any digestive or respiratory signs of *Spirocerca lupi* infection are seen.

Abnormal changes of the vertebrae (bones in the back) may also occur.

How is infection with *Spirocerca lupi* diagnosed?

This is an excerpt from an article written by Ronel de Jongh to the Bullmastiff club, describing her dog's symptoms:

"I recently discovered a lump in my dogs' throat. She had been swallowing a lot lately as well. Fearing the worst I went off to the vet. The diagnosis is something I think we should all familiarise ourselves with since I have now heard of too many dogs that have died from this illness or bullies that have it at present.

What is also disconcerting is that my dog picked this up even though I have very stringent routine regarding the removal of faeces in the garden and I stick to the de-worming program as dictated by my vet. The varied symptoms and time period before clinical signs present themselves make it very difficult to detect. So far my dog has shown the following clinical signs over the last 18 months: lethargy, arthritis in the foot and front legs, swallowing a lot, the beginnings of spondylosis in the upper spine and then the lumps in the throat which turned out to be swollen salivary glands. Today I noticed an involuntary jaw snapping when she lifts her head back."

Eggs of *Spirocerca lupi* can be found in the feces or vomit, but sometimes it takes repeat examinations,

since the worms are not continually releasing eggs. An endoscopic exam of the oesophagus (where a narrow tube with a camera on the end is passed into the dog's throat) will reveal the characteristic nodules.

Signs of hypertrophic osteopathy may signal your veterinarian to look for tumors or other masses in the chest. The nodules caused by the esophageal worm can be seen on radiographs (x-rays).

Is there an effective treatment for infection with *Spirocerca lupi*?

In the majority of cases, unfortunately, current available treatment is not always effective. This is because diagnosis is usually made only when clinical signs indicate the existence of a problem. By this time, the granuloma will be quite large and there is a high chance that it has already become cancerous. The overall mortality rate is high. The hypertrophic osteopathy will resolve with treatment. Sometimes, however, irreversible damage such as an aneurysm or cancer has occurred, and cannot be treated effectively.

Unfortunately, none of the drugs used for routine de-worming develop high enough blood-levels to kill off *Spirocerca*. When the worms live in nodules in the wall of the oesophagus and sometimes in the wall of the aorta, they are not reached by these drugs. However, as a precaution it is suggested that all the dogs on your property are de-wormed treated three times a year. The prepatent period is about 5 months, which is the time from infection until the adult worms are present. If one treats three times a year, one gets the worms while they are still in

the immature phase, before they create the nodules and lay eggs.

There are remedies available, which are always administered and supervised by a veterinary surgeon. These are known as macrocyclic lactones. It must be emphasized that they should not be used on Collies or Collie crosses, which are highly intolerant of macrocyclic lactones.

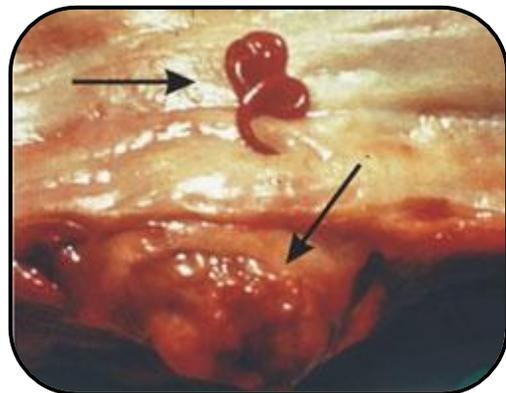
The treatment of choice is Doramectin (given every 2 weeks for 6 doses, then monthly until the granuloma disappears) which has been found to be effective in many cases.

What measures can be taken to prevent infection with Spirocerca?

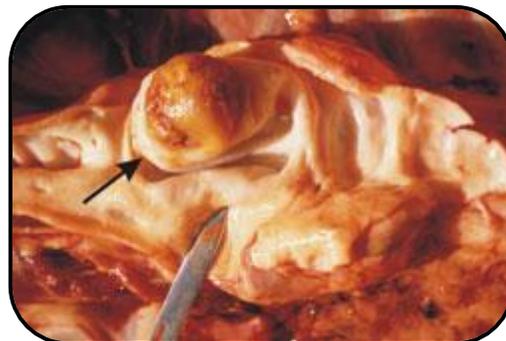
In order to reduce the spread of the disease, the following measures are advised:

- The *most important preventative measure* is the regular removal and appropriate disposal of faeces, which is essential to minimise the chances of infection. Faeces and vomit should be disposed of in a manner that ensures they are not accessible to dung beetles, birds, reptiles and other intermediaries which can spread the larvae of this parasite.
- Maintenance programmes for good hygiene and cleanliness of the area where the dog is housed and exercised should always be followed.
- Have your dogs vaccinated by your veterinarian every 3 - 4 months with Ivomec or Doramectin to kill any parasites that might be in the system before they can cause damage.
- Walk your dogs with a muzzle (especially in park areas), if they tend to eat everything,
- Don't allow your dogs to wander freely without a lead.
- Prevent your dogs from eating faeces or grass (where the dung beetles may be present).
- Collect your dogs' poo in public areas and throw it into garbage cans, thus helping to reduce the number of infected animals.

Worm 1 Pic caption The left arrow indicates a Spirocerca worm removed from the granuloma, which is indicated by the right arrow. The adult worm is red in colour and approximately 8cms long. The eggs, which contain larvae, have the shape of a paper clip



Worm 2 pic caption: An example of a granuloma in the wall of the oesophagus, indicated by the arrow.



YOUNG HANDLERS

For parents of children, juniors and teenagers, encourage them to come into the ring and learn to handle the Boxers. It is very rewarding and a wonderful skill to learn as a child. Some of these youngsters will be the future of our breed and as such we should encourage and nurture them. We have some experienced handlers that can assist you and we are more than happy to get you going, so please come and chat to the committee members at



our next show in February 2011. Lucy Young started as a 6 year old and she is now ranked 2nd in the country as a Junior handler, and she started right here, so let us work with you.

Showing

At your next show, please come and approach any of the committee members to help you on how to show your dog, it can make all the difference when you enter the ring if you have had an opportunity to practice. Remember a show is just that, a place to show off your dog, but you need to be able to handle your dog correctly in order to give yourself the edge and get that winning place.



Training

Manwork training is ongoing. Besides training dogs up for Breed Survey (BT) qualification, we are also training the integration of control into the bite work so that we can move toward higher IPO or PD qualifications as well. The structure of the training is based on your desired outcome – be it for BT qualification, competition at trial level or merely domestic protection work. This training is not only thoroughly enjoyed by the dogs and owners alike, but it also cultivates greater confidence in your dog that culminates in a more dependable companion, both as a balanced family pet as well as when potentially faced with adversity. The training focuses on working with the dogs' natural drives and in no way evokes aggression. The dogs also derive an intense enjoyment out of it. Remember that every dog that is trained is first and foremost a family pet and this type of training does not affect the trust that you have in your dog around your children or family. Anyone interested in bringing their dogs along for the training, just interested in watching, or actually wanting to get involved with the training is welcome. Please contact Mathew Ross (082 293 5752) for any further information.



Overseas Visit



Best in Show

I visited New Zealand earlier this month as a friend of mine, Monique Hodgkinson, was invited to judge the Boxers out there for the The Boxer Club Inc. Auckland. I was very keen to see what their Boxers looked like as they are even more remote geographically then we are here. Sitting watching and photographing the dogs I was pleasantly surprised at the standard of them. The majority are from UK & Australian lines due to the fact there is no quarantine between these three countries, thus making it far easier for them to import from UK. I found for the best part the dogs to be of a good size, well balanced, some of the best hindquarters I have seen, clean heads with the most

phenomenal bites. I was lucky to be able to meet quite a few of the dogs after the show and was allowed to examine them, which I was delighted about, especially as I wasn't the judge!!



**Reserve
Best in Show**

Useful Info

BCSA Committee 2011:

President	Ute Füglistner
Chairman	Carol Marneweck
Vice-Chairman	Liz Schultz
Secretary	Helen Rennie
Treasurer	Venan Rajah
PRO	Angela Roeland/Sarah Tomlinson
Committee Members	Madga Koekemoer, Mathew Ross, Marcel Roeland, Sally Young, Jean-Paul Zeitsman.

WEBSITE - <http://www.fbcса.za.org/BCSA.html>

MEMBERSHIP FEES 2010/11:

R200 – renewal of membership **R250** - for new membership (inc. R50 admin fee)

Contacts:

All Enquiries & Puppy Inspections	Helen Rennie	084 521 6587
Puppy Socialization & Obedience Training	Ute Füglistner	011 314 1489 (after hours)
Man Work Training	Mathew Ross	082 293 5752

Just to round off, any contributions you might have for the newsletter, please drop me a line on youngs@netactive.co.za

**Until next time, compliments of the season to you all and see you in February.
Sally Young
(011) 487 2037**