

BREEDERS PANEL NEWSLETTER Summer 2008



It is almost holiday time again and I am sure everyone is making plans for the Christmas holidays. It was a very busy and successful year for the Panel of Breeders. We hosted Dr Gareth Zeiler who presented a very informative seminar on "The brood dam and the birth of the puppies". The seminar was well attended and we all learned a lot. Copies of the notes are available should anyone be interested. Contact Pam Zeiler on 012 664 2156 or secretary@fbcsa.za.org. We also presented a secretarial workshop where everyone learnt more about the duties of a secretary. This was combined with a workshop on litter inspection. A big thank you to Pam Zeiler for an excellent day!

Who serves on the 2008/2009 committee?

Chairperson: Bridgitta Steyn

Secretary: Marinda Oosthuizen

Committee members: Chris Levings, Pam Zeiler, Helen Rennie

Please contact us for more information

Bridgitta Steyn: 084 581 2827, bridgitta@gmail.com

Marinda Oosthuizen: 084 586 5139, marinda.oosthuizen@up.ac.za



Why microchip your dog?

(<http://www.saveourstrays.com/chips.htm>;

<http://dogs.about.com/od/toyssupplies/a/microchipping.htm>)

Millions of dogs become lost every year - statistics have shown that more pets die each year as a result of being lost than from all diseases combined. Many lost dogs end up in shelters where they are adopted out to new homes or even euthanized. Although no method of identification is perfect, the best thing you can do to protect your dog is to be a responsible owner - it is important that your dog has identification at all times. Collars and tags are essential, but they can fall off or become damaged. Technology has now made it possible to equip your pet



with a microchip for permanent identification. A microchip is with your pet for life and can greatly increase the chance of recovery if a pet becomes lost.

What are Microchips?

A microchip is a tiny, totally inert electronic transponder about the size of a grain of rice. It consists of a tiny computer chip housed in a type of glass made to be compatible with living tissue. The microchip is implanted between the dog's shoulder blades under the skin with a needle and special syringe. The process is similar to getting a shot. Little to no pain is experienced - most dogs do not seem to even feel it being implanted. Once in place, the microchip can be detected immediately with a handheld device that uses radio waves to read the chip. This device scans the microchip, and then displays a unique alphanumeric code. The dog must then be registered with the microchip company, usually for a one-time fee. The dog can be traced back to the owner if found.



Things You Should Know

- Microchips are designed to last for the life of a dog. They do not need to be charged or replaced.
- Some microchips have been known to migrate from the area between the shoulder blades, but the instructions for scanning emphasize the need to scan the dog's entire body.
- A micro chipped dog can be easily identified if found by a shelter or veterinary office in possession of a scanner. However, some shelters and veterinary offices do not possess scanners.
- Depending on the brand of microchip and the year it was implanted, even so-called universal scanners may not be able to detect the microchip.
- Microchip manufacturers, veterinarians and animal shelters have been working on solutions to the imperfections, and technology continues to improve over time.

What is the FBCSA's stance on microchips?

It is preferable that both the Sire and Dam for each litter is microchipped. It is highly recommended that all puppies be microchipped, otherwise clear photos of each pup taken at 6 weeks of age be submitted to the FBCSA secretary for identification purposes. If you wish to have your Boxer's hips x-rayed it is necessary to have your dog micro chipped for identification purposes. If you buy a pup without a microchip and have one inserted by your own vet, remember to let the FBCSA secretary have the details so it can be recorded on the FBCSA data base.

Be a responsible breeder and microchip your puppies!



Hot Weather Tips for Your Pets

(<http://www.extension.umn.edu/info-u/pets/BB483.html>;

http://www.aspc.org/site/PageServer?pagename=pets_hotweathertips)

Your pets have special needs during the summer when temperature and humidity are much higher. Dogs and cats wear a heavy fur coat and have limited ability to cool themselves. They have sweat glands only on their paws, so they cannot sweat to stay cool the way humans do. Dogs and cats mostly pant to cool themselves and seek cool places to avoid the summer heat.

Guidelines to use in caring for your pets in hot weather include:

- A visit to the veterinarian for a spring or early summer check-up is a must; add to that a test for heartworm, if your dog isn't on year-round preventive medication. Do parasites bug your animal companions? Ask your doctor to recommend a safe, effective flea and tick control program.
- If your pet is kept outdoors, make sure he has a shaded place and plenty of fresh water to drink. Your pet will need much more water in the summer to replenish what he loses by panting.
- Only let your dog play outside in the early morning when it's cool; don't let him outside when his stomach is full and it's hot and humid outside.
- Never keep your pet in a car in direct sun on a summer day. Even with the windows slightly open, the temperature inside a car can soar to 120 degrees Fahrenheit or more within minutes. These conditions can kill a pet within 10 minutes or less.
- Hot sidewalks and pavement can burn your dog's paws.
- Do not apply any sunscreen or insect repellent product to your pet that is not labeled specifically for use on animals. Ingestion of sunscreen products can result in drooling, diarrhea, excessive thirst and lethargy. The misuse of insect repellent that contains DEET can lead to neurological problems.
- For older dogs and dogs with special health issues like obesity and lung disease, keep an extra watchful eye on them because they are extremely vulnerable to the heat.

Water Safety:

- For a lot of families, summertime means swimming time. If your dog will be joining you on your adventures, be it lakeside, oceanside or poolside, please read our following tips:
- Do not leave pets unsupervised around a pool.
- Not all dogs are good swimmers, so if water sports are a big part of your family, please introduce your pets to water gradually.
- Make sure all pets wear flotation devices on boats.
- Try not to let your dog drink pool water, which contains chlorine and other chemicals that could cause GI upset.



Signs of heatstroke:

The average temperature of a healthy dog is 38°C, however, the normal temperature of a healthy dog may range from 37.2°C to 39.2°C. If his rectal temperature starts to go above 40°C, he is approaching a danger zone of heat stroke. He will often be panting very hard, his gums may be very dark pink or even reddish, and he may feel quite hot to the touch. If he is in this condition, soak him with cool or cold water immediately and take him promptly to the nearest veterinarian. This is an emergency situation and requires immediate care.



Heart certificates

A reminder to our breeders:

It is compulsory to submit a heart certificate when a female is bred from for the first time (that also applies to the sire). Thereafter, an annual heart certificate is strongly recommended.



Best wishes for the Festive season!

**Breeders Panel
November 2008**