

Samoyed Association of Mpls/St. Paul



CLUB NEWSLETTER

Volume 2/2003 May 31, 2003

Club Website: <http://www.samsmn.org/>

Next Newsletter Deadline: June 30th

Editor: Lori Sorenson

S.A.M.S. 2003 Board of Directors:

Leny Wendel – President
Jane Anderson – Vice President
Roland Anderson – Treasurer
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Jon Gauthier – Member at Large
Cyndy McGrath – Member at Large
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Next General meeting is scheduled for June 9th at Minneapolis Humane Society.

Please note: the program preceding our club meeting will start at **7:00 p.m.** on Monday, June 9 (instead of 7:30 p.m.). Long-time club member and AKC judge Larry Mackai will give a ***special PowerPoint presentation on the AKC Samoyed Standards***. This is the same presentation he gives to AKC judges. It's extremely informative and is not to be missed! We're looking forward to seeing many of you. The general club meeting will start no later than 8:15 p.m. The meeting will include a special overview of our 2003 Specialty by Show Chairman, John Donner.

Upcoming Events

June 14-15th Weight-pull Clinic Details to follow.

July 4,5,6 Herding Clinic with Kent Herbil Details listed in April newsletter or contact Barb Gage.

Sept 26-28th SAMS Annual Camping/Pack Hike at Gooseberry Falls

Oct 4th A-Fair with Dogs at Anoka County Fairgrounds

The following is a listing of the scheduled general and board meetings for the remainder of 2003. All dates are subject to change due to facility availability and will be updated in subsequent newsletters.

General Meetings to be held at Minneapolis Animal Humane Society

Monday, **June 9th**

Monday, **September 15th**

Monday, **November 10th**

Board Meetings with locations to be determined

Monday, June 23rd - Meeting will be held at Lynne Sparks & Karen Palm's home at 7:30pm

Monday, August 25th

Monday, October 6th

Monday, December 8th

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Well, we did it: our very first and very successful two-day Specialty! The attendance was great, the site wonderful, and the weather couldn't have been any better. Add to that, a well-run show headed up by Show Chairman, John Donner, who, with the assistance of all his committees helped make the Specialty truly memorable. My thanks to you, John, and all committee members! Special thanks are also due to Pete Leithner for, once again, chairing the Specialty Obedience Trials and to all the people who assisted him. Since I was the Agility Chair, there's no need to thank myself; however, I do want to extend a special thanks to everyone who helped out during the two days of Agility Trials. So many of you pitched in and got up early to ensure that we could start at 8:00 a.m. each day and run a smooth trial.

Now that we got this one behind us, it's not too early to start thinking about next year's Specialty. I would like to have a Show Chair in place very soon. I invite each and every one of you to consider volunteering for this very important position. If it's too daunting for one person, we could make it less so by having two co-chairs—perhaps someone who has chaired before along with someone who doesn't have the experience. Please give it a thought and let me know if you're interested. John and his committees, along with the board, will be putting some guidelines together that will give the 2004 chair(s) a running start.

Finally, I want to encourage you to consider participating in the Sammy demos at the State Fair. It's a very fun and rewarding event. All the spectators love Sammies! Please contact Betty Gerlach for more information. Hope to see many of you at the June 9 meeting! We have a great program that will start at 7:00 p.m. (see the special announcement in this newsletter).

Leny Wendel

SAMS Weight Pull Clinic and Sanctioned Weight Pull

Date: Sunday, **June 15**, 2003

Time: Clinic starts at **10:00 a.m.**; potluck lunch at **noon**; weigh-in at **1:00 p.m.**; pull at **1:30 p.m.**

Place: **Gage and Gage** Warehouse, 4950 12th Ave East, Shakopee

Clinic Leader and Weight Pull Judge: Rhonda Schrader (judging by Malamute regulations)

Cost: Clinic only: **\$5.00**
Clinic and regular pull: **\$15.00**
Clinic and novice pull: **\$10.00**
Regular pull only: **\$10.00**
Novice pull only: **\$5.00**

Registration: On-site or pre-register with Barbara Gage: barbarag@winternet.com

Reprinted with permission from March–April 2003 Newsletter for the Minnesota Malamute Club

Rethinking Vaccination Protocols — by Linda Dowdy

Every year they arrive in your mailbox — those little postcards from your veterinarian, reminding you it's time for the annual booster shot for your dog or cat. Dogs have routinely been vaccinated yearly for distemper, hepatitis, and parvovirus. Cats are routinely vaccinated for feline leukemia.

Today however, this standard practice is under increasing scrutiny and is in the process of evolving into a new protocol. The increasingly widespread conclusion is that there is no scientific evidence to support the efficacy of yearly vaccinations. Consider the following statement, taken from Current Veterinary Therapy XI, a veterinary reference published every two to three years and considered to be “the bible” for veterinary medicine.

“A practice that was started many years ago and that lacks scientific validity or verification is annual revaccinations. Almost without exception there is no immunologic requirement for annual revaccination. Immunity to viruses persists for years or for the life of the animal. Successful vaccination to most bacterial pathogens produces an immunologic memory that remains for years,

allowing an animal to develop a protective anamnestic (secondary) response when exposed to virulent organisms. Only the immune response to toxins (such as tetanus) requires boosters, and no toxin vaccines are currently used for dogs or cats. The practice of annual vaccination in our opinion should be considered of questionable efficacy unless it is used as a mechanism to provide an annual physical examination or is required by law, i.e. certain states require annual revaccination for rabies.”

More and more it is being recognized that animals are suffering from adverse reactions to vaccinations. These reactions can include lethargy, fever, stiffness, sore joints, abdominal tenderness, anaphylactic shock (an allergic reaction that causes swelling of critical airways and can result in death in minutes), liver and kidney problems and more. If an animal has a pre-existing health problem, vaccinations can hasten a decline in the health of that animal as they are known to depress the immune system. Many animals with chronic health problems fail to improve or respond to traditional treatment. The homeopathic community refers to these adverse reactions as “vaccinosis”, which broadly means the vaccinations interfere with the body's own ability to heal itself.

Recent studies have indicated a link between several chronic health problems and vaccines. There is epidemiologic evidence linking feline leukemia and rabies vaccines to sarcomas at the injection site. These soft tissue tumors are usually malignant and quite aggressive. They are often fatal. Skin problems such as hair loss, lesions, ulcers, and hard lumps at or near the injection site have been associated with some rabies vaccines.

All of this creates something of a dilemma for the veterinary practitioner — revaccinate or not. Undoubtedly aggressive vaccinations have been very effective in controlling the incidence of potentially lethal viral diseases, such as feline leukemia, canine distemper, hepatitis and canine parvovirus. At this point there is no simple, conclusive answer. While there remain many skeptics, other practitioners have adopted a compromise solution, suggesting revaccinations every three years.

Dr. Jean Dodds, president of Hemopet, suggests titering as an alternative to annual revaccinations. She feels this is particularly effective for animals with a previous adverse reaction to vaccinations and for breeds at higher risk for such reactions, such as Weimaraner, Akita, American Eskimo, and Great Dane. She measures serum antibody titers against specific canine infectious agents such as distemper and parvovirus. She also recommends the following schedule for puppy vaccinations.

Age of Puppy	Vaccine Type
9 weeks	MLV Distemper/Parvovirus only
12 weeks	MLV Distemper/Parvovirus only
16-20 weeks	MLV Distemper/Parvovirus only
Total of 3 doses only	
At 24 weeks or older, if allowable by law	Killed Rabies vaccine
At 1 year	MLV Distemper/Parvovirus only
At 1 year	Killed 3-year rabies vaccine
(give 3-4 weeks apart from Distemper/Parvovirus vaccine)	

Dr. Dodds adds that she does not use Bordetella, corona virus, leptospirosis or Lyme vaccines unless these diseases are prevalent in the local area or in a specific kennel. She also does not recommend vaccinating bitches during estrus, pregnancy or lactation. She avoids vaccinating 30 days prior to the onset of estrus.

Dr. Dodds suggests two alternatives to conventional revaccination.

1. Monitoring Serum Antibody Titers
2. Homeopathic Nosodes

It is possible to determine the virus-specific antibody titers for any viral disease of dogs and cats. Titer testing measures humoral immunity, and many labs now offer this service. It is important to ask for vaccine related immunity and to start at low dilutions when ordering the tests. Otherwise the labs will actually test for the active virus, which would distort the results. If titers are found, the animal should not need revaccination until some future date.

Homeopathic Nosodes are homeopathic remedies. They have been used successfully in Europe for many years, and more recently have been introduced to North America.

This brings us to the subject of passive immunity, the immunity passed on to young by their mothers. This immunity degrades in a series of recognized and predictable stages called half-life. For example, canine parvovirus immunity, acquired from the dam during the first 24 hours of the puppies' life, degrades by a value of one-half every nine days. So if the puppies inherit an immunity of 1024 from their mother, then after the first nine days this decreases to 512. After the second nine days it decreases to 256, and so on. A parvovirus vaccination given while passive immunity levels are still present in the puppy is ineffective — in other words, it is blocked by the passive immunity in the puppy. It's as if the puppy received no vaccination at all. Passive immunity blocks the efficacy of vaccination until it drops to a level of 50-60. But, and here's where the real kicker comes in, puppies are susceptible to parvovirus when their immunity drops to 90 or below. This creates a window of vulnerability, where they cannot be effectively vaccinated and yet are susceptible to the virus.

Dr. Ronald Schultz, professor and chair of the department of pathobiological sciences at the University of Wisconsin-Madison veterinary school, feels that maternal antibody, in other words passive immunity, is the most common cause of vaccine failure. The fetus develops a functional immune system at 45-50 days into gestation, and immunity will stay high for 10 days to two weeks. A major cause for reduced immune response during the first week of life is hypothermia. He feels that it is critically important to maintain body temperature of 99½° Fahrenheit during this critical period of time. Between 2 weeks and 4 weeks, while still nursing, the immune system of the puppies grows and begins to take on its own duties. Because maternal antibodies can persist for longer than previously thought, Dr. Schultz strongly recommends that the last vaccination take place at 22 weeks for a puppy and 16 weeks for a kitten.

Both breeders and owners should talk to their veterinarians about the changing landscape in vaccination protocols. As a breeder, you may want to use a titering process to ensure your prospective dams have high levels of immunity. All of us, whether we are breeders or not, still have to comply with state laws that mandate rabies revaccinations. But what about the other vaccinations that we have routinely been giving to our dogs and cats? We live in an area of high vulnerability to Lyme disease, so do we continue giving vaccinations for Lymes? You and your veterinarian are the ones to decide upon the best protocol for your animals. And today, that it is not an easy decision. Hopefully more testing and studies will bring a definitive answer to this vexing and worrisome question.

Additional Reading:

Jean Dodds, D.V.M. "More Bumps on the Vaccine Road", proceedings of AHVMA Annual Conference, 1994.

JAVMA Vol. 207, No. 4, 8/15/93, "Are We Vaccinating Too Much?"

Jean Dodds, D.V.M., "Vaccine Safety and Efficacy Revisited: Autoimmune and Allergic Diseases on the Rise", Veterinary Forum, May 1993.

"Vaccinations, Part 4", Holistic Veterinary Conference, 1996.

"Vaccination Protocol, revised April 2000, Jean Dodds, D.V.M. Hemopet

Race for the Cure

by Leny Wendel

On Sunday May 10, Lori Sorenson and I participated in the Race for the Cure in support of Cyndy McGrath and in celebration of Pam Landers' recovery several years ago. Anna Mae Makela had registered as well, but due to bad weather and health issues she decided to do the 5K walk on her treadmill at home instead! Smart woman.

Despite the pouring rain, there were thousands and thousands of walkers. Several walkers wore pink shirts signifying they were breast cancer survivors. It was an unbelievable experience. So much dedication, care, and enthusiasm. The whole event was very well organized with lots of volunteer helpers and lots of food for all the participants.

Lori and I would like to make this an annual event for S.A.M.S. If we manage to find our S.A.M.S. banner, we could even carry the banner along with us. In addition to actually doing the 5K walk, people can also register as a Spirit Walker. A Spirit Walker is someone who wants to donate for the cure, but is not able, for whatever reason, to do the 5K walk. Spirit Walkers will also receive the Race for the Cure t-shirt. Since the event always coincides with Mother's Day and Cambridge, the Spirit Walker concept may be a viable option for several of our members.

School Visits

By Barbara Gage

A big thank you to Leny Wendel and Ricq Pattay for volunteering to join me for an educational presentation at the Otter Lake Elementary School in White Bear Lake.

The students were studying Alaska so we were asked to talk about sled dogs and the Ititarod Race.

Glorijean Harper also arranged a visit for the entire day at her middle school in Stillwater. They were reading "The Call of the Wild" so were not only interested in sledding but were also interested in just how much our dogs can pull at a weight pull. It's amazing how quickly the dogs learn that their job is to visit each and every student in the room while we are giving them information on sledding. This was our second annual visit and was a lot of fun.

My daughter Alisa and I were asked to do a presentation to Kindergartners in Stillwater earlier this year. Everyone had such a good time they asked us to come back for the Alaskan studies project.

If you've never made a visit to an elementary school with a Sammie you don't know what you are missing. The children are charming and ask very interesting questions. The best part for the children and the dogs too, is at the end, when everyone gets a one on one visit with one of the dogs.

So if you would be available during the school day please let me know and I'll give you a call when I receive the next request.