

HEADLINE STORY

## SAVED BY A RIDGEBACK

**M**y husband and I live in Walkerville and run a horse riding school from our 5 acre plot. Our house and garden is at one end of the plot and the stable yard and show jumping arena at the other end. In December 1993 and the beginning of 1994 the crime in Walkerville had escalated to such an extent that we decided to enclose the house area with a six foot bonnox wire fence, and have the local armed response on call. We had two Rhodesian Ridgeback bitches - Katima and Gypsey. We had two grooms living at the stable end of the property and they had access through a gate at the far end of the stable area.

Katima's registered name is Maxwood Sun Slip, her Sire is Chucklenook Bobedi of Clachan and her dam Maxwood Briar-sun of Roseberryridge. Katima was three and a half years old at the time and weighed about 55kg. She is a big girl - standing 27cm at the wither. She has always been, and still is, a marvellous watch dog. When Katima barks we always investigate - she never barks unnecessarily.

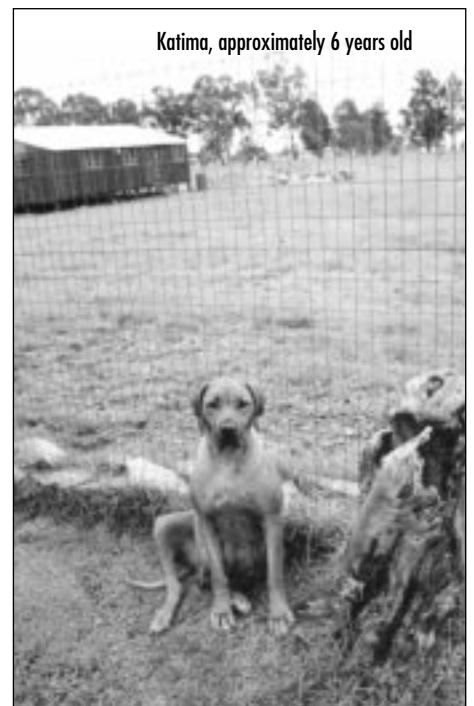
We have many horses here and although Katima will watch them with seeming interest she never chases them or harasses them, even when they are bucking and galloping around the paddocks. She is normally very laid -back about everything - except food and snakes. She is an absolute pig for any food and uncontrollable when faced with a snake. A rinkhals in the garden recently had Katima prancing and barking, ducking and diving at the hooded swaying reptile. I even fired off a few shots in the hope of frightening her away from the snake - but she took no notice at all. I eventually lassooed her (after several attempts) and pulled her off with the help of two adult men.

One evening in February 1994 I

walked down to the stable area to check on a horse that had been lame earlier in the day. I closed the gate from the house area, leaving my Rhodesian Ridgeback bitch, Katima lying in the late afternoon sun by the swimming pool. Gypsey had just had a litter of pups and was enclosed in the "maternity unit" - a kennel the other side of the house. The grooms had gone up to the local shops and my husband and son were not home from work - so I was on my own.

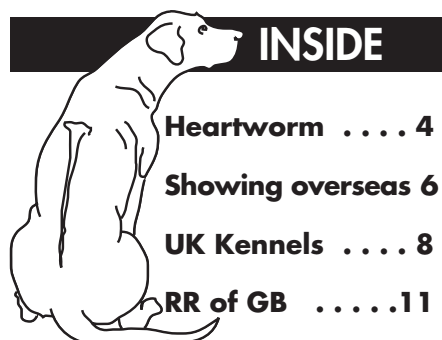
My mind was full of how I was going to treat the lame horse and as I turned the corner into the stable yard I saw two men at the tack room door at the end of the stable block. They had no business being there - the entrance that end of the property is always locked so I called out to them and asked them what they were doing. They said they wanted work. "I have two Grooms working for me - I do not need anyone else" I told them. When they continued to approach me I told them to leave. They kept saying they wanted to "speak with me" and began to look quite menacing. I suddenly realized that not only was I alone, but I had no panic button with me, one of my dogs was enclosed in the maternity unit and the other was shut the other side of the fence and was probably asleep.

One of them had his hand behind his back. I wondered if he had been trying



Katima, approximately 6 years old

to open the tackroom door and was concealing some sort of tool. Things were looking suspicious and I began to panic. I shouted at them again to leave - they still came forward, more menacingly and I started backing up. Suddenly I heard very loud barking and then Katima bounded past me and jumped at the nearest man, knocking him to the ground. The other man ran and I also ran, the other way to the house. As I ran I heard the man screaming but I just ran - and as I opened the gate through the fence I wondered, fleetingly, how Katima had got through. I pressed the panic button inside the kitchen door - the Armed Response Unit arrived within minutes. In the meantime I watched Katima holding her man down - she stood over him with her mouth around his upper arm - between the elbow and



the shoulder. With his free arm he was stabbing her with a screwdriver – he stabbed her and stabbed her and she just held on to him.

When the armed response arrived I took her collar and called her off. There was quite a lot of blood – but most of it seemed to be coming from Katima. One of the Armed Response guards had a bludgeon which he was waving about threateningly – and the thought went through my mind that Katima might attack him – but before I could do anything she wagged her tail at me – and the guards – and spit out the remnant of shirt between her teeth.

Katima was amazingly calm - even when the guards grabbed the guy and pushed him off to their car – she seemed to know that her job was finished and she just wagged her tail and made a fuss of me.

Katima had fourteen puncture type wounds in her back upper leg. There was a lot of muscle damage, but luckily none

had pierced anything vital. The vet gave her a course of antibiotics and some anti-inflammatories. The next day – and for several days – Katima was very stiff but the wounds healed quickly. She has several ugly scars, but no permanent damage.

Katima was asleep when I left the house area and I did not call her but she must have been alerted by the panic in my voice when I was shouting at the intruders. The gate was firmly closed with a latch that no dog could undo – so Katima must have scaled the fence to get to me.

The next day when I was teaching in the sand arena, two little girls, aged about 4 and 5 years old were waiting for their mother to finish her riding lesson. They wandered off to the edge of the arena and called to Katima through the fence. I was a bit apprehensive because I thought after the excitement of the intruder and the fact that Katima was still very sore, she might not take too kindly to small girls pushing their arms through

the fence at her. But there was no need to worry, Katima licked their little hands, wagged her tail and nobody knew she was so sore and stiff. Except for me – I could see she was in a lot of pain – her tail only wagged to one side, I was very proud of her.

Pat Yeo

## BOERERAAT

- If your puppy has diarrhoea, give it mashed pumpkin and potato. Soft boiled chicken can be added for readily absorbed protein. - **Stef Potgieter.**
- Boil peach leaves in water and apply to septic wounds. Gun oil works equally well. - **Marlene Grosskopf.**
- Editor - let's have some more of these helpful hints. And remember, when you are far from a vet, these tips can really be a godsend, even if they are slow-working

# THE BOND BETWEEN HUMANS & CANINES, COULD IT BE A THIRD MILLENNIUM DISCONNECT?

A personal view by STIG G CARLSON. Reviewed by Liz Penprase.

Is this just another article on cheap sensationalism or is it a reality? Well by what I have read we have to take a long hard look at where we are going with canines and in particular the RR.

The fact is: There is an anti-canine legislation going on in 5 continents. Germany has brought in a law that all medium to large dogs have to be muzzled when out of their property [Ireland included]. The States, France, Brazil and Poland will not insure big dogs. Belgium has the RR on the banned list. Australia bans dogs in cities and apartments. Finland has problems with dog allergy attacks. Los Angeles wants to castrate all dogs over the age of 4 months, the list goes on and on...

Today people use the internet and email more and more so the need for a companion [the 4 legged variety] is not really there. People go to gym, play sport, as a result they do not really have time to spend with their animals. Which brings us to another problem. Dogs get bored, naughty and may even become vicious, a tragedy may occur, that is when one gets bad press about that particular breed [the background does not often get mentioned]. This is where responsible ownership comes in. Not everyone should have dogs. There should

be a licence to own a dog similar to that of driving a car. You cannot just buy a dog, keep it outside, ignore it, then expect it to love, obey and protect you. Denials take us nowhere; we have to ask ourselves tough questions. If we are not willing to be responsible then politicians are going to bring in anti-canine regulations. Sweden is trying very hard to be responsible; it looks like they are turning the tide, let us hope so.

Let me finish off by saying how wonderful dogs are, they help the blind, they are used in therapy for the sick and elderly, they are faithful companions, the police use them for bomb and drug detection and riot control. They are used in sport and hunting. They, the RR, are doing fantastic work up in the Kruger Park. When you remember your childhood, would it have been the same without the love and devotion of a faithful hound?

Editor: On the technical side, if you would like to borrow this excellent presentation by the internationally renowned RR commentator Stig Carlson, which is on a CD-Rom, we would just like to mention the following:-

1. It is purely a video presentation, ie there is no audio.
2. If you run into snags, there is no "help" to call on.
3. You down-load preferably onto a specified directory, or straight onto your C-drive if you are absolutely convinced you are not holding any file there under the names mentioned under this CD-Rom
4. It is a Microsoft Powerpoint presentation requiring Windows 95 or 98 ie you require the Microsoft Powerpoint program or equivalent.
5. It takes 20 to 30 minutes to read through. ■



Is this a dangerous dog?

# REPORT FROM THE CHAIRMAN

**W**ell, as you saw, our lead story this time round centres on a bitch that knows how to look after her family. It is hoped that this type of article can be used to reduce the level of antipathy, even hysteria, surrounding the matter of large dogs in society beyond our borders.

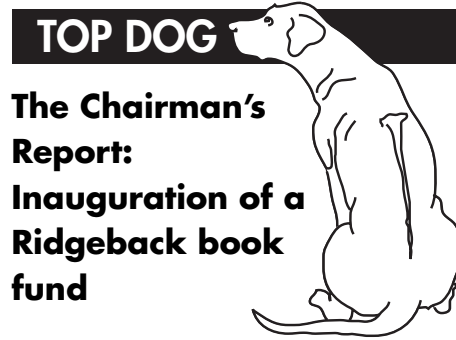
The first issue (end 1996) of RRIF News carried a story which appeared originally in the Sandton Chronicle. It detailed the incident in which Zuba attacked two armed hijackers and saved his owners' lives. In the second issue we reprinted the story from the Tribune which told of Frances Coole's Monty who braved an AK47 fusillade and saved his owner from harm.

This issue covers the Katima story and it is worth mentioning that all three of these dogs were big, say well over 50kg, of the Dane and Boerbull types. Though no doubt purely and coincidentally large it is interesting to note how markedly they differ from the average bush dog contemplated in the Lion Dog Digest.

That well known listing, RR-Folk, is publishing a horrifying selection of tales about some frightful incidents, particularly in Germany, where so-called civilised man has turned on defenceless dogs and subjected them to what can best be described as inhumane and barbaric maltreatment. Without going into excessive detail one of the methods used is to feed sausages, which have been laced with broken razor blade chips, to any available dog. You cannot possibly credit your fellow man with being capable of all the reported incidents. And at the same time the authorities want to ban a whole host of breeds because THEY are dangerous. That bestiality trial brought discussion to the fore about how man is judged by the way he treats animals and this should be becoming a very worrying aspect of life in Europe at present. Lets hope it is a passing lunatic phase, but one receives



Monty and Frances



## The Chairman's Report: Inauguration of a Ridgeback book fund

comments from people in Britain that they wouldn't like to have a dog in Germany right now. Africa is renowned for many unsavoury activities involving animals, but really one must maintain a balance and keep an open mind in such matters. Recent reports indicate a very significant cooling of the frenzied attitude lately. Moves to ban "biting dogs" throughout Europe have been abandoned. Maybe sanity is taking hold; we certainly hope so.

So we shall send the stories about Zuba, Monty and Katima to our German friends in the hope that they can be of help in this dire situation. And if any one of you has any doubts about the sick level to which dog retaliation has sunk please let us know your (or a convenient) e-mail address and we shall pass on what is being freely reported.

Let us return to something more palatable. We quote from the covering letter that accompanied Pat's story about Katima. "I didn't realise it was such a long time ago - over six years - but it is as clear in my mind as if it were yesterday. I can even still see (and smell) the dirty blue shirt the intruder was wearing - and later Katima spitting it out.

Katima is stretched out beneath my feet, in her bed under the computer table, as I write this, oblivious of how well known she is. Everyone in the area knows 'Katima.... Mrs Pat's lion dog!'. It all boils down to character and temperament.

You are going to see these words (character and temperament) showing up again and again. They don't count for much in the Breed Standard (read it and see just how extensive the coverage is) but they amount to everything as far as the Breed itself is concerned. So we get excited about the Canine Good Citizen Awards even if it appears that KUSA stands back from it (remember that they don't control the "judges"). And character crops up in the L.D.D. You can't get away from it, and we shall do our best to

ensure that you won't.

We have been contacted with a view to temperament testing up to 50 dogs over an extended period. The theory is that we use a standard test and see what constants we come up with. We would have the opportunity to suggest additional/alternative tests and naturally the sooner this was arranged the better. So if you have any views on the matter please communicate them at the earliest and lets hope that this venture can proceed.

We would like to publish a book on Ridgebacks and to that end we seek your advice and contributions. A Sub Committee has been formed to see this matter through but you must be aware of the magnitude of such an undertaking. The theory is that our Advisory Notices can form the skeleton for the 'Magnum Opus' as they represent, in précis form what we should elaborate in great detail for the benefit of readers. We have an excellent example of how it can be done in the form of that book by the RRC of G.B., but is that what we want? Shouldn't we rather try to carry on the great work of Janet Murray, and if so who can do it, pictures and all? Or should we go more into the founding dogs and the first dogs bred, i.e. involve ourselves in original research such as done by Dr Stef Potgijter. Don't be shy, come forward and let's hear what chapters you could contribute. And just to encourage us along the road, Laurie Venter has generously donated R2000-00 to our "Book Fund."

We are still pushing that Acrobat plan. It's the only way you can obtain a really good copy of your newsletter. As you can see in this issue we have put in a lot of pictures. We hope to continue this trend. Help us to do so and make sure you get good reproduction in your copy, even if it's off a friend's computer. You will find how to get Acrobat elsewhere in this issue.

You will notice that there are no Show Results included with this issue. The main collector of that information has been out of the show ring since early June and alternative arrangements were not set up timeously. Surprisingly enough the results are as difficult to collect as to capture. What we cannot glean locally, we shall obtain down in Cape Town and include in later issues.

We continue to pursue the idea of operating a rescue scheme to collect dogs from Zimbabwe and bring them here. We welcome any assistance you can offer (kennel facilities, transport, crates, food, etc.) The effort is being

co-ordinated by the Club's Chairman, Francie van Rensburg. I know it seems strange to bring the dogs "down" here when their owners are going elsewhere in the world right now, but that is how it is. There seems no let up in the steadily deteriorating situation there, and it looks as if it may descend into total chaos before people can take hold of the disaster and force some common sense and stability into their national affairs.

Rabies is close to Johannesburg again, or at least, so says the "Citizen" of 19th October 2000. We last had an incident over in Krugersdorp (20 km from Johannesburg) say 15 years ago. This time a

small dog has died showing signs of paralysis. And it had been missing for 4 days, giving limitless possibilities for onward transmission. The article continues by saying that "symptoms can occur from 7 days to 6 months after being infected by the virus" etc, etc. That is all very well but not mentioned in the article and obtained from another source, the dog had been brought from Kwa-Zulu Natal seven months ago, yes, seven. So does that 6-month "window" hold water any more? (what a clash of metaphors!)

Our regular Honorary Editor/compositor/sub-editor/general factotum/whatever is taking a look at business prospects

beyond our border for a few months. His efforts, worth R2000 per issue, will be sorely missed. We assembled the LDD in Microsoft Word kind of successfully. On conversion to Acrobat however, it shrunk by 10% and so far we don't know why! This RRIF News shall shortly be attempted in Quark Express. Here's hoping it gets to you in time for the Christmas and New Year wishes to be meaningful.

And what better way of concluding this report than by wishing all our readers a most joyous Christmas and a fantastic New Year! Let us wish the same for all the dogs that contribute so much to the wellbeing of us humans. ■

FROM THE NET

## MORE ON HEARTWORM

### How is it detected?

Either by examining the blood with a microscope or by an antigen blood test. The antigen test is important for dogs that present symptoms but for whom the blood smear does not show microfilaria. There are occurrences of heartworm infection with perhaps a single worm, immature worms, sterile worms, worms that for some reason do not reproduce. Depending on the incidence of heartworm in your area, your vet may require the test before placing your dog on preventive. You may hear the word "occult" - that means hidden - the term is sometimes applied to other medical conditions - occult blood in the stool, for instance.

### What are the symptoms?

Poor condition, wheezing, difficulty breathing, lethargy, cough, dull coat. I have seen a couple of very advanced cases where the dog had fluid accumulating in the abdomen (ascites), similar to congestive heart failure.

If you consider that the worms are long enough to run from chamber to chamber in the heart, you can imagine that they interfere with the functioning of the valves. A significant number of worms present simply take up the space that is available, making it increasingly difficult for the heart to pump and for blood to flow. I have necropsied dogs where the blood vessels were jammed solid with worms. Occasionally a vet may have a specimen heart in his collection. It's quite graphic.

### What is the treatment?

I'm not sure what the current treatment is, but it used to be a series of

intravenous injections with a drug called caparsolate, which is a form of arsenic. Last I heard, correct. Any of us can check with their vets for current protocol. If you hear something different, please post it!

### What is the typical cost of the treatment?

Pretty expensive, at least \$200 - \$300, including evaluation of the dog's health to determine whether it can survive the treatment (which is pretty extreme), including X-rays and liver enzyme screening. We used to keep the dogs three days - the injections were given twice daily for four injections, then 24 hours observation before release. This is where the sleeping on the floor by the crate came in: during the three weeks after the injections, the dog must be kept under strictly restricted activity because the injections' purpose was to kill the worms. You can imagine that if you now have a bunch of dead worms decomposing in the body, and you allow a dog to exert itself, you can pump fragments of those decomposing worms throughout the system, blocking vessels all over. If the dog is kept quiet, the worms decompose without migrating and the system slowly absorbs them. Remember, too, that the caparsolate is very hepatotoxic (toxic to the liver) and the liver must recover also.

### What is the prognosis for treated/untreated animals?

Death, within a few years, if left untreated. Even if it is treated, unless the dog is early on in the disease it will suffer a shortened life span from the debilitating effects of the disease.

### What happens to the animal if it is left untreated?

Death. The worms clog the heart and the pulmonary artery, cutting off oxygen supply and heart function.

### What is the occurrence? (is it common, rare?)

Very common in most parts of the country. (It is especially prevalent in areas with high mosquito populations, since that is how it is spread.) A mosquito bites an infected dog, picks up the microfilaria and then passes it to the next dog it bites.

### Anything else we should know?

Please check to make sure it is not in your area, because if it isn't now, it may be soon. This is a horrible, preventable disease which severely debilitates the dog. It was in the middle '70s when they first began to test routinely for heartworm disease and vets were surprised by how widespread it was. The transient nature of our society, here in the States, anyway, contributed. Infected dogs travelling with their families, transferred the parasite to the local mosquito populations, which then transferred it to the local dogs. By the way, heartworm has also been diagnosed in cats. The preventive measures are vastly improved over what was first available. I have Jessie on Sentinel, which prevents heartworm, hookworm, roundworm and fleas (did I miss anything?) and is a chewable tablet given once monthly. Sure beats that old Styrid Caracide liquid! Heartworm is a serious problem here in South Florida.

"an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure" AMEN! ■

# THE KUSA CANINE GOOD CITIZEN TEST

Several years ago both The Kennel Club and the American Kennel Club decided that although competitive Obedience Classes were, excellent and that a number of clubs and individuals were holding socialization classes nothing formal had been done as to exactly what was required to make a dog a "Good Citizen".

The Americans and the British worked completely separately, and might not even have had contact with each other on the subject of the Good Citizen scheme. After a year or so of pilot studies both Kennel Clubs produced their own schemes, which although the same in principle, were different in detail. It was about this time that the Federal Council decided that a similar scheme was needed for South Africa and set about formulating one.

In addition to specific requirements for South Africa, Kennel Union Canine Good Citizen has elements from both the American and British Tests in its make up. With this background now let us answer some of the questions we get asked.

## ARE THE TESTS COMPETITIVE?

Definitely No.

## HOW ARE THE TESTS MADE UP?

There are thirteen tests which apart from the first two can be taken in any order as often as you like. Tests one and two are simply to show that you have produced your dog, healthy, clean and groomed and it will let someone like a vet or a groomer examine it and that you can put on a collar and lead. The other eleven tests range from "Present for Examination on a Lead" through "Reaction to Distractions" to "Lie down and Stay on command".

## WHO CAN HOLD THE TESTS?

Any KUSA affiliated club or other organization acceptable to KUSA.

## WHEN CAN THEY BE HELD?

At any time, anywhere, and as often as the organizing body likes. Just remember that the Good Citizen Tests are NOT a KUSA schedule. No licence is required and they do not form part of a show.

## WHO CAN JUDGE THE TESTS?

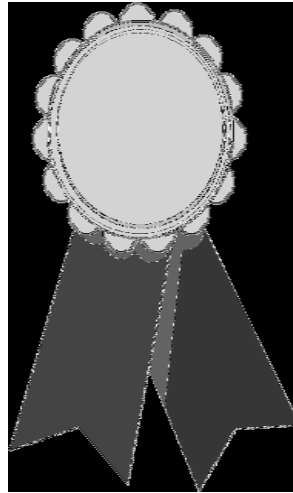
Dogs that take Tests are not judged, they are evaluated and the evaluators at the moment are any Breed Judge who is on the panel for one or more groups and any Working Discipline judge. There is nothing to stop evaluators putting dogs through the Tests every day if they want to.

## HOW MANY PEOPLE WILL EVALUATE MY DOG?

This is not an easy question to answer as you do not have to take all the tests at one time to pass. You can take them one by one and if your dog passes say three and fails two you can come back again and again until your dog does pass and on each occasion you may find the evaluator is a different person. From the organizers point of view there is no number of evaluators laid down so today they may only need one and tomorrow three or four.

## WHAT HAPPENS WHEN I WANT TO TAKE THE TESTS?

Having chosen where you want to take the Tests you will be



given a Test Sheet to fill in duplicate. This is to give the Club details of your name and address, etc., and the name of your dog. The Club will keep one copy and you the other. Each time you go to take a test the evaluator will mark the test sheet "Pass" or "Not Ready". Once you have passed all the Tests you will be issued with a Kennel Union of Southern Africa numbered Canine Good Citizen Certificate and a rosette. The club will send your copy of the Test Sheet to KUSA for keeping on the permanent record.

## HOW MUCH WILL IT COST ME TO TAKE THE KUSA CANINE GOOD CITIZEN TEST?

How much organizing bodies

charge is up to them, but to cover costs KUSA charges for each Canine Good Citizen set ordered (Certificate, Rosette, Test Booklet, Test sheets).

## WHICH DOGS CAN TAKE PART?

Any dog, purebred, crossbred or a mongrel can take part and there is no particular age limit.

## WHAT ABOUT PEOPLE?

Children must be over eight (8), must provide proof that they are eligible together with the written approval of their parents or legal guardian, otherwise anyone can take part.

## ONCE MY DOG HAS BECOME A CANINE GOOD CITIZEN CAN I HAVE THIS ADDED TO HIS REGISTRATION CERTIFICATE?

Although the Tests are an Official Kennel Union approved document they are not part of the Constitution and Schedules, so there is no provision for the fact a dog has passed to be added anywhere on its Registration Certificate, should it have one.

## HOW CAN I FIND OUT WHERE THE TESTS ARE BEING HELD?

As, until they need Certificates, KUSA does not always know who is holding Tests your best route would be to contact the Secretary of the local Kennel Union Provincial Council whose telephone numbers are given below.

### BORDER, EASTERN CAPE, TRANSKEI

Mrs. A.M. Myburgh

(041) 38 1371

### FREE STATE & NORTHERN CAPE

Mr.L.M. Oosthuizen

(051) 436 1354

### GAUTENG, MPUMALANGA, NORTHERN & NORTH WESTERN PROVINCES

Mrs.J. Ratner

(011) 918 3409

### KWAZULU NATAL

Mrs.L. Wilson

(031) 903 4582

### WESTERN CAPE

Mrs.M. Scott

(021) 689 5678

Kennel Union Office

(Mon - Fri 08:30 - 16:30)

(021) 423 9027/8

(021) 423 5876 (Fax)

(e-mail):kusa@iafrica.com

# SHOWING DOGS OVERSEAS

It is a great experience to put your dog in the local ring for the first time but this in no way compares with taking him/her overseas and putting your pride and joy in front of foreign judges in a foreign land. We often have the feeling that perhaps we would have fared better under a judge who is not steeped in the local dog world and if this is your particular sensitivity then the overseas experience is definitely worth a try even if only to discover that you have misread the situation in the first place.

However, one very important financial word of warning. When you budget the costs of that trip do not assume that it will cost the same to bring your dog(s) back as it did to take them there. Without going into the logic of the matter please just accept the following story associated with the quadrennial show in Holland.

The airwaybill reflecting the air freighting costs of a one way trip to Holland (Schiphol) shows a total charge (based on volume) for two dogs of R 4 813.24 after the fuel levies etc. The weight on which this cost is based is in fact 176 kg i.e. 88kg each for two number nine boxes. This is based on quite a keen rate and what with various commissions and document charges lets say it was R 5 000.

Now, when it came to returning the same two dogs to RSA in the self-same two boxes the amount quoted was 5 834 Guilder. Lets again assume that there were some add-ons and lets use a total of 6 000 Guilder. If we assume an exchange rate of 0.35 this figure equates to R17143, that is R12000 more than it cost to get them there. Rubbish, you say, someone has mucked up. No they haven't. Your scribe was forewarned by a knowledgeable Schiphol employee of the possible cost and though (to himself obviously) he used words much stronger than "rubbish" this rate is definitely what they use over in Holland.

As mentioned earlier lets avoid the logic of the matter, because everyone else is. Your problem remains that when you budgeted the trip you just happened to think that it would cost the same amount to bring them back as it cost to take them there. That is where you made an elementary error. KLM has got a whole new approach to this matter, and if you are like me your holiday budget does not carry R 12 000 excess fat to cover the vagaries of that



...and travelling around is exciting too...

well known Dutch airline, or any other for that matter.

But then there is another startling inconsistency. You bought your own return ticket for a figure ranging from R 2 300 to R 3 300, depending on the amount of market research you indulged in. For arguments sake let us assume that the cost per person for that return ticket was R 3 000, i.e. R 1 500 each way for each human passenger. Now we know that it cost an estimated R 5 000 to get two dogs there, which is R 2 500 per dog. That is an overcharge of "only" R 1 000 per dog on a relative basis. But then look at the return costs. We said R 17 143 but lets assume that we don't know all of them and that the final figure was R18000 after all the funnies, that is R 9 000 each for the return trip. Therefore it costs six times as much to move a dog as opposed to a human.

Certainly a human can put himself aboard and can get off at the end of the trip. There must also be extra administrative requirements when handling this canine cargo, but on the other hand there is no involved security checking of baggage.

Also the weight of the dogs is not a factor. Their charge was based on volume which is a higher "weight" than they actually represented. This is of no significance because your human averages say 65kg and his luggage a further 25kg i.e. 90 in total compared to the 88kg used per dog.

What would you do if you booked in your dogs with four hours to go prior to take-off and you discovered you had to immediately find another R 12 000 at the end of a holiday. That situation did not in fact arise on account of forewarning, but there was no opportunity to research the market and look for improved rates on another flight.

Very fortunately alternative arrangements were in fact made, and if one looks at the position in a positive fashion what was definitely a financial catastrophe may have been converted into a genetic boon. Time will tell.

In the interim, if you are taking your dogs overseas and intend bringing them back with you, please enquire into the costs and don't repeat this mistake assuming that they will come back at the same cost as you took them over. ■

# FINANCIAL POSITION

The AGM of the one club formed by us to date, the RRC of the FS, was a very pleasant occasion held in the old museum at Villiers on 28 October 2000. The business was speedily dealt with and you will find adequate details included in a separate news sheet included with the copies of RRIF News distributed by the club.

As far as our own finances are concerned our audited accounts show a deficit for the year of R 915, but this is probably an exaggeration as the accounts are drawn on a receipts and payments basis which, for example, give no recognition to the 'advanced payment' nature of whatever books we hold in stock. We still have funds totalling R 10,008 so we are financially secure. However we must look to the future and there are several possibilities which must be borne in mind.

Firstly, thought is being given to producing a book, and this must

involve significant costs. Also we have embarked on a website (very slowly) and costs will now start to mount.

However, from a normal operational point of view, the clubs we form can prove to be expensive. We donated R2 000 to the RRCFS to ensure its viability and undertook to carry the costs of its magazine until it had accumulated funds of at least R5 000.

We encourage club formation wherever a reasonable number of breeders/fanciers exist, but it is difficult to say they shouldn't do so just because their numbers are low. The more clubs you have the better the communication the members enjoy. However, apart from that contact the main service provided by the club is a newsletter that informs and stimulates. This is one of the services the Foundation provides as it is not financially feasible for a club to produce its own. Because of its nature the

Foundation enjoys access to broadly based facilities which inevitably will exceed those of any of the clubs.

At present we provide the club with a master copy of the RRIF News and levy it R2.50 per copy distributed.

That means for each R75 subscription collected by the Club there is an annual cost of R10 before photocopying and postage, a somewhat minimal charge and one that will be corrected in time. The Foundation's position however will be strengthened by increasing membership regardless of what that levy might amount to. On the other hand if we finance future clubs on the same basis as the first one, and we have two in mind at present, it would cost R 4 000 to get them started and who knows how much until they have built up a combined R10 000.

So we are looking at ways in which we can raise funds and welcome any suggestions you may make. ■

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR:

# ORIGINS OF THE RR AND CANINE GOOD CITIZEN

Dear Editor,

Thank you for the latest issue of your magazine which has given us the first report we have seen on the recent Ridgeback Congress.

Although I would agree with most of Jack Selby's article, there is one point which is inaccurate and one on which I do not personally agree. The inaccurate point is to state that The Kennel Union was 'affiliated to The Kennel Club, London'. It never has been. However, we do have a reciprocal agreement. The point with which I do not necessarily agree is his statement that Helm 'travelled with two Ridged dogs from Swellendam'. Looking at the distribution of the Ridged dogs from the written information I have been able to research, I feel that he picked them up on the way north, rather than starting off with them. My suspicion is that he probably travelled up to Hope Fountain via Kuruman and found the dogs there as there are records of these dogs in that district, but I am always happy to be proved wrong!

Turning to the Canine Good Citizen, there is a false impression that these Tests are part of a Show. They are NOT a Kennel Union Schedule and, in fact, can be held at any time and not necessarily all at once. The enclosed informa-

tion sheet should answer all questions on the subject that might be raised. Yours faithfully,  
*MICHAEL R. DARWIN*  
Manager, Research and Statistics, K U S A.

**Editor:**

"We really appreciate receiving a well-informed/intended letter, and thanks for bringing the above to our notice. On the matter of "two Ridged dogs from Swellendam" surely we are as uncertain of them being ridged as we are about where they came from. Also, in the section of the newsletter dealing with show results mention was made of the view that the name Rhodesian Ridgeback acknowledged merely the efforts of Rhodesians to have KUSA recognise a dog of South African origin - a trifle harsh perhaps?"

We are keen to publish anything KUSA has on the subject of temperament/character testing; this is a matter of crucial importance to the breed all over the world."

**Follow-up Reply:**

Turning to Helm, my belief is based on an article I wrote in 1991 and the source material upon which I wrote it. Helm was posted direct from the UK to Zuubraak Mission station just outside

Swellendam and it was here that his daughter was born on 1st June 1874, a few months before Mr. Helm started on his travels. In an article dated 14th December 1928 in the English magazine 'Our Dogs' a correspondent writes, Mrs Lovemore, daughter of the Rev. Charles Helm ... wrote stating she remembered in 1875, when her parents were trekking up from the Cape, a friend presented them with a pair of dogs with a ridge down their backs. The key words seem to me to be 'were trekking up' which seems quite clearly to indicate that the dogs were not acquired in Swellendam. Add to which Jesse was only four months old when the family moved but must have been around year old when they left Kuruman for Hope Fountain. All of which adds to my hunch that the dogs were obtained in Kuruman area, though there is another report this time in the South African 'Farmer's Weekly' dated 7th February 1923 which states 'Mr Helm imported specimens from the Oudtshoorn District in the Cape Colony'. The interesting thing about the second point is not that he brought the dogs up with him but 'imported' them.

I am not sure if all this muddies the water or clears it.  
*M R DARWIN.* ■

# FOUNDER KENNELS IN THE UK

By Jack Selby

**D**r. & Mrs. Mackenzie had kept the breed going during the war years and started to make an impression on the British show scene with their "Manscross" dogs. Their South African import Manscross Bridget of Hub was mated to Just of Bamba, a dog that had been presented to the then Princess Elizabeth (now Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth 2nd).

The first English R.R. Champion was produced from the mating and later a dog from East Africa Ch. Ben-Hur of Thornbury was added to the Kennel. "Ben" soon became the first International Champion in the breed and sired foundation stock of several of the early RR Kennels in the UK.

Another dog that featured very prominently as a sire in the early days was Ch. Owlsmoor Sandown Hustler, an import from East Africa that was acquired by Mrs. Cicely Hick. The Owlsmoor Kennel produced about a dozen Champions including Ch. Hunter of Owlsmoor who won 12CC's and three times B.O.B. at Crufts.

The "Footpath" kennel of Mrs. Rose Bailey was founded on "Manscross" and "Owlsmoor" through "Ch. Ben-Hur" and "Ch. Hustler". A dog purchased from Dr. Mackenzie - Mingo of Manscross - soon gained his title, won B.O.B. at Crufts and became a top "Footpath" sire. Seven or eight Champions were produced by this Kennel.

The Selby's "Eilack" kennel had a mixture of "Manscross", "Owlsmoor", a bitch from Mrs. Ann Wheeler, which was of South African "Hub" strain, called Cleo of Bonaventure and "Prancing Prince" a dog brought from Africa by Oscar and Mary Abben. Later there was South African import "Yaligimba's Rajah" brought for the "Eilack Kennel" by John and Sandra Blake. "Rajah" became a Champion at his third show and went on to win 17CC's. He was the first Ridgeback to win a

Hound Group in the UK at Bath Ch. Show in 1975. In 1984 Ch. Ulundi Ushumba of Eilack was imported from Janet Murray in South Africa and finished with 29 CC's, 3 times B.O.B at Crufts, 4 consecutive years B.O.B. at the Hound Show and Sire of 13 Champions including Bishop's Ch. Tarhaan Kshashani, the top winning bitch of all time in the UK with 21 CC's and three times Best in Show at Breed Club Championship Shows. The "Eilack Kennel" has produced 22 Champions to date.

Wilf and Betty Webster's "Janak" Kennel, their sister Mrs. Wyn Russell's "Pyewipe" Kennel and Dora Peck's "Ridinghills" Kennel were all founded on "Owlsmoor" and "Eilack" stock. The "Janak" kennel became the more predominant of the three. Using imported dogs at stud they have become one of the top winning RR kennels in the country and have produced 29 Champions to date including Ch. Iannto of Janak and Ch. Jespah Alekzandr of Janak, top winning Ridgeback 1994 and the first RR to win Best in Show at an All Breeds Championship Show in the UK

Mr. & Mrs. J. Bates "Gunthwaite" went on from "Ridinghills" stock and a steady flow of Champions has come from "Gunthwaite" over the years.

Mr. & Mrs. John Woodrow's "Mirengo", founded from "Footpath" stock and a mixture of rather obscure imported bloodlines, has produced about eight Champions including Ch. Mirengo's Mandambo, the breed's all time top winning RR in the UK with 31CC's, Res. in the Hound Group at Crufts, Hound group winner at Leicester Ch. Show, Top Stud Dog 1985 & 1986 and Sire of 3 Champions.

The "Bizweni" Kennel of Mrs. Isobel Field was a mixture of "Owlsmoor" and a bitch of the South African "Hub" strain "Candida of Bonaventure" purchased from Mrs. Wheeler. About six Champions were produced by this kennel,



Mirengo's Mandambo

notably Ch. Bunkeya of Bizweni which was sold to the Jackson's and went on to win 12CC's and B.O.B. at Crufts 1966.

The "Rhosaf" kennel shared by Paula Thornton and Grace Sturdy was all "Owlsmoor" until importing a dog and bitch from the Van Buskirks in Zimbabwe. The dog, although used at stud was unshown, but the bitch became Ch. Rhosaf Gwinya and went on to win 15CC's including B.O.B. at Crufts in 1979. She was mated to my Ch. Yaligimba's Rajah and produced Ch. Rhosaf Elijah of Eilack who won B.O.B. at Crufts 1981 and was the youngest RR dog to gain his Ch. Title.

Mrs. Sue Simper's "Matabelle" Kennel was started from "Owlsmoor" stock and an acquired African import, Bantu Warrior. In the late 1970's the beautiful bitch Ch. Matabelle M'Kangazi" was produced, went on to win 17CC's to become, at that time, the breed's top bitch. In recent years there has been an influx of American and Swedish lines, which has produced a steady flow of Ch. Bitches from this Kennel.

Those Kennels mentioned made their mark in the early years of the breed's foundation in the UK.

Ridgebacks have now increased in numbers and some of the Kennels that have come to the fore during the last fifteen years are: "BURNCOTE" "DIAMONDRIDGE" "FAAHAC" "FLAMETREES" "GAVENDA" "HESPA" "KWEKWE" "MANGWE" "MWENGA" "NYASSA" "ROOINEK" "REJAN" "SHAWEMA" "SHABANI" "TRENDSETTER" "TUKELA" ■

## RRIF BOARD MEMBERS 2000

	HOME	WORK	Cell Phone
Hermine Biber	011-958 1591	011-958 1591	-
Flavia Du Ponsel	011 476 5170		082 264 4697
Willem Fourie	012-654 7497	011-953 3730	-
Bill Jukes	011-476 5079	011-476 5079	083 654 5079
E & C Penprase	011-803 1892	-	082 461 7742
Nathalie Rouget	-	011-314 1738	082 451 2199
Scotty Stewart	011-678 3617	011-678 3617	082 253 3111
Francie & Dirk v Rensburg	058-821 0339	058-821 0339	082 779 3646
Laurie Venter	011-794 1587	011-794 1587	082 443 2284
R Wright	011-792 6461	011-792 6461	082 853 6385

# CANINE HIP AND ELBOW DYSPLASIA

There is nothing more devastating to a dog owner, than to be told after X-rays of the hips and elbows, that your companion has Canine Hip Dysplasia (CHD) or Elbow Dysplasia (ED). The pet is already an established member of the family at the time the diagnosis is made. This group of developmental diseases can only be decreased or eradicated from your breed by careful and selective breeding from animals that are known to be hip dysplasia (HD) and elbow dysplasia (ED) free and by progeny testing. This means that all animals in a breeding program should be properly identified, usually by microchipping. A small glass diode remains under the skin as a permanent form of identification for the rest of the animal's life. The results of hip and elbow scores must be placed in the animal's stud records. A stud record should not be just a list of fancy names, but it should include genetic information that will help breeder's select good breeding animals

High quality radiographs must be taken under sedation or general anaesthesia, to diagnose these conditions. Anaesthesia of, or radiography of bitches in season, does not affect the results or grading scores. Please ask your veterinarian whether his / her hospital has been accredited by the university of Pretoria to take Hip Dysplasia X-rays,

Three standard views are taken and you should please take along your pedigree papers if you require a HD certificate. A flexed view of both elbows will soon become a requirement to exclude elbow dysplasia as well.

The most commonly asked question is "what causes CHD? or ED?" It is now considered to be part of a syndrome affecting young fast growing large breed dogs, known as the "osteochondrosis" syndrome. This group of diseases which includes hip dysplasia, elbow dysplasia, osteochondritis dissecans of the shoulder joint, ununited anconeal process of the elbow, fragmented medical coronoid process of the elbow and other joint incongruency diseases, is more prevalent in certain breeds. Nutrition during the growth phase plays a vital role in whether the disease will manifest itself or not. The wisest advice is **DO NOT OVER FEED DURING THE GROWING PHASE and STAY AWAY FROM CALCIUM SUPPLEMENTATION.** Ask your veterinarian which diets have the correct calcium levels for growing dogs. Puppies cannot control the calcium intake as do adults and deposit excess calcium in the bones. The correct diet will help an affected individual, but it will not change the animal's genes, **THE ONLY WAY TO REDUCE THE INCIDENCE OF CHD and ED, IS TO SELECT**

**SIBLINGS AND NEAR ANCESTORS WITH NORMAL HIPS and ELBOWS FOR YOUR BREEDING PROGRAM.**

## **SUGGESTED BREEDING GOALS:**

- 1 Have all breeding males and females permanently identified and X-rayed for hip and elbow dysplasia.
2. Keep records of hip and elbow scores of all registered breeding stock on the stud register.
- 3 When you know the incidence of hip and elbow dysplasia in your breeding stock, breed as much as possible from the best possible elbow and hip scores,

Your goal should be to improve the overall conformation and character of your breed. Conservative and surgical treatments are only successful with early diagnosis. Early high quality radiographs and visualisation of the joint by endoscopy will allow early intervention and avoid some of the more drastic surgical procedures. Prevention is always better than cure, and nothing will improve or destroy your breed quicker than not being responsible and aware of those breeding animals that have genetic defects.

**With acknowledgements to "DOGS IN AFRICA" - FEBRUARY 2000.**

**Prepared by Dr Larry van Niekerk, B.VSc.(Hons.), MmedVet(Chirg), Fourways Veterinary Hospital**

## **LETTERS TO THE EDITOR:**

### **"MRS HUMBY"**

Dear RRIF News

One of my puppy buyers of about 4 years ago phoned me today. He told me an amazing story. He lives in Gordons Bay and was visiting his family in Belgium.

During the visit he visited a restaurant for lunch. A lady walked in with a Ridgeback on a lead. So what always happens with dog owners he started to talk to her and patted the dog. The lady said she had imported her from S.A. My friend asked what she called her: her answer we call her "Mrs Humby". Can you imagine the scene after this. What an amazing thing they should both be in the same restaurant at the same moment and both have Leliefontein Ridgebacks. My friend said she nearly collapsed when he said I know Mrs Humby of SA. I also have two Humby Ridgebacks. I tell you this story made my year.

Kind regards to all  
BETH HUMBY

## **FROM THE NET:**

### **PANCREATITIS**

In dogs it is typically caused by overeating and eating too much fatty food.

- It can be fatal if it is not treated early.
- It is also in many cases extremely painful

#### **Prevention:**

- Keep to the dog's regular diet, note: dogs on a raw natural diet are far less likely to get this than those fed kibble.

#### **Treatment:**

- Withhold food - get the dog on iv fluids for hydration purposes. It is imperative to not introduce anything into the stomach as that will cause the pancreas to re-inflate.
- Make sure that blood work is done and the liver enzymes are checked - if they are critical they should be checked thereafter daily. Success has been seen using PEPCID and /or Zantac.
- There are also some herbs and homeopathic remedies that are helpful.

- After the crisis is over and the dog is stable, maintain a reduced fat diet - consider switching to raw natural diet. Include Pancreatic Enzymes to help. Pancreatitis in 2/3 of cases is secondary to another condition - Did she have blood work done - if yes - can you get a copy (my fax # is 610-489-1037), since you said that she hasn't had any unusual food - have her kidneys and renal function been checked?

Also they should be checking for gastrointestinal disorders, hepatic and cardiovascular disease.

Is she overweight at all - that can be a factor as well, bacteria and other infectious agents are also factors that can cause it?

Typically you should not feed for 4-5 days - I know that sounds tough but it is important - and for people it can be longer, I wasn't allowed food or water for 8 days! I wasn't even allowed to brush my teeth except with a plain dry brush.

# ELECTRONIC FENCING

There is an electronic system available which operates on a more selective basis than your normal electric fencing system.

The electric fence in its rudimentary form is used by many farmers to control the location of various animals (cattle, pig, sheep, goats, etc.) usually within a feeding area. They are also used to prevent crops such as potatoes, cabbage, beetroot, etc., from being devastated by animals such as bushpig, kudu, impala, etc. (What we are trying to stress here is the variety of crops and the broad selection of animals that ravage those crops.) They are also frequently used by horse owners to restrict their pets to sections of the pastures, or exercise paddocks.

These 'fences' consist of bared wires carrying very high voltage at very low amperage i.e. they will overcome high resistance and deliver strong electric sensation with exceedingly low power (the reason they can be powered easily from batteries as opposed to the mains).

When you use this system in your garden to keep out the dogs (usually at the top of that low fence, or in front of the flower display regularly enjoyed as a playground by the pack) you also give yourself, and your visitors, an opportunity to inadvertently discover why the dogs stay away. If this happens to you please bear in mind that whereas your dog goes crashing through the wire in an effort to make closer acquaintance with the Rottie next door, and is obviously none the worse, that identical system on the potato patch left a kudu mortally stunned.

This new system operates only on specified animals and the selection is determined by collars worn by the dogs (animals) you wish to control. For less than R1500 you obtain one collar (an E-Collar), the control unit, and one hundred and fifty metres of cable which you can bury or leave above ground which activates the collar at whatever range you determine, giving a warning tone before activating the deterrent.

Very few of us will have a need for such equipment, but there are those determined cases where your pooch insists on challenging the neighbour's dog through the fence, or he insists on going along with you when you drive through the open gate, etc., etc., etc

Please contact Scotty should you seek further information.  
+ 27 11 678 3617 ■

# GIARDIA REVISITED – YET AGAIN.

The bitch which whelped the litter that created the subject matter for the original article on giardia was acting a bit off-colour recently. She turned her nose up at the odd meal (say one in five) which is not a known habit of RR's. As she was going to the P E shows the vet was asked to check her out a week before departure in an effort to determine what was causing this uncharacteristic behaviour. She was given a general examination which revealed nothing by way of an explanation, but did lighten the load on the wallet.

She traveled down without incident, but turned her nose up at the second meal offered subsequent to her arrival. So she went into the ring on an empty stomach, and though this did marvels for her tuck she was definitely lethargic. She accepted breakfast the next day, but didn't want dinner. This was most exasperating so it was decided to dose her with Flagyl. 20ml, or at



an infected puppy

least most of it, was poured down her throat (with the help of Rob Sheppard) into her 40kg body. She has eaten every meal since with great enthusiasm and a week later was regaining her normal exuberant nature. In retrospect, one feels she had been below par for probably half a year. Also she experienced a wind problem (so what's new you say!) which evidenced itself in P E during defecation.

The annoying part of it all remains the difficulty in having this ailment speedily diagnosed. It looks as though the adult dog doesn't do too badly when affected by giardia, but the opposite is very much the case with puppies and immediate diagnosis is absolutely essential. ■

# BAD-MOUTHING - THE BREEDERS' LAMENT

One of the benefits of breeding, (apart from being physically very involved with your favourite breed) is meeting many interesting people. Answering numerous queries by telephone quickly becomes part of the routine, it does often have a disastrous effect on the 'phone bill, though!

What is increasingly becoming a distressing part of these conversations nowadays, is the negative comment about other breeders I have to deal with. Remember this comes from Mr and Mrs. Public, interested in buying a puppy and consequently becoming involved in the breed. Most of the time they hear these comments without even knowing enough to judge the criticism they so willingly pass on.

I have always been a keen advocate of the benefits of competition, believing it encourages improvement. Competition should however be accompanied by a fair measure of bonhomie, as well as the willingness to learn from

experience. This does not apply when breeders are verbally crucified behind their backs. ( Please excuse the obvious contradiction !)

Breeders do make mistakes, yes. Purposefully – No. So often the X-factor in genetics turns an educated decision into a disaster. . What we do need to realise is the disastrous effect our often unjustified (and jealous ?) remarks have on those who are the most vulnerable . Mr and Mrs Public, keen to become involved in Ridgebacks, are now so put-off by all the negative implications that they choose not to become involved at all. The consequences of this need not be spelled out.

Please, think twice before passing negative comments around. If you do have a problem take it up with the one directly involved, or alternatively, contact the Club, so we can take care of the matter in an objective manner.

Please let's not harm our beloved Ridgies in this unnecessary manner. ■

# THE RR CLUB OF GREAT BRITAIN

Every twelve months the Rhodesian Ridgeback Club of Great Britain issues its yearbook. This publication can be used as a benchmark for other magazines of its genre. We accumulate information of this type in our archives and below you will find the subjects covered in it plus comments. Should any of you be researching UK dogs, this might be a good place to start. On reading it one sees the need to produce something of a similar nature here because the history of the RR in its country of origin is not adequately catered for. Yesterday is history and the valiant efforts of Janet Murray require continued elaboration and follow-up. For example we would have liked to print a resume on the Beans (Rekaylahn) on their departure for the UK.

However, let us return to the RRC of GB yearbook, Millennium edition, and start off with the Chairman's Report. Its good to see the varied selection of items they (in their 48th year) involve themselves in, particularly a Breed Council. This is followed by their code of ethics which pursues a pattern different from our own. Perhaps we should reproduce it in a later issue. They then pronounce four recommendations (a) all breeding stock to be x-rayed under the BVA/KC Hip Dysplasia Scheme, (b) puppies to be sold with insurance cover, (c) checks for dermoid sinus conducted by at least two competent persons (d) and bitches should not be bred for the first time after four years of age. We then have their Breed Standard which is dated March 1994 and is reproduced with the permission of K.C. This is followed by the Championship Show Results for 1999; this indicates that twenty-two shows were held whereas we have more than fifty available to our show-attending enthusiasts. The main difference between their shows and ours is that whereas they only hold one over a week-end we generally hold two and sometimes three with four being an infrequent gruelling experience.

They make quite an occasion out of their Open Show, but we must remember attendance at UK dog shows bears no relationship to that in RSA and Zims. The judges comments on the show in general are given as well as their critique on the first two placings in each of the twenty-four classes. The same full coverage is devoted to their championship show. Their show calendar comes next, twenty-one shows being detailed and we note the names of Jack Selby who judged Crufts in March and Mrs E Megginson who will officiate at Midland Counties in October. They follow this up with a list of Club Championship Show Winners from

1975 under headings of BIS, RESBIS and BPIS. Peter Jones then advises us of their progress in their Dermoid Sinus Project. Based on DNA testing they expect to require funding of many thousands of pounds (multiply by 10 for Rand) and will call on assistance from RR owners both in UK and abroad for this project which is of benefit to the breed worldwide. They then provide 3 pages of pictures of influential foundation RRs which is an excellent idea when it comes to satisfying the phenophiles. We also want to publish good pictures of good dogs, so if any of you have (large sized) portraits please e-mail us in JPG at 300 d.p.i.

Two hundred champions are listed covering the period 1954 to 1999. Breaking them down into three periods there were 36 from 1954 to 1967 (two and a half p.a.) 78 from 1968 to 1984 (four and a half p.a.) and 86 from 1985 to 1999 (six p.a.). We had five champions in RSA this last year. On quickly running through those 200 UK champions we notice only Ben Hur of Thornbury (1956), Owlsmoor Glenaholm Adonis (1961) and Ulundi Ushumba of Eilack (1987). Whether that third Ulundi dog should be referred to or not doesn't matter as our RSA dogs don't feature at all strongly. They then cover their approach to supporting Open Shows. They are very satisfied at the way in which their support has greatly improved the attendance at Hound Shows. Obviously they had their reasons for selecting "Group" Shows, but the matter came about as a result of an initiative originating from KC (their equivalent of our KUSA). Chances are that we should follow suit in RSA - support at any show would be a breakthrough. How many RRCFS members participate at shows? Three? Four pages are then devoted to "In Memoriam" and reminiscences followed by the Affix Register and another four

pages of photographs and three generation pedigrees on four winners. They publish the hip scores for 1999 and of the seventy dogs recorded only four scored more than twenty (the approximate cut off in Zimbabwe) with scores of 28, 29, 55, and 57. If you use 12 as the cut-off, which approximates the maximum equivalent to 0.0. in RSA, then 56 would be acceptable and 14 (20%) would fail. In the experience of Malcolm Willis only 6,8% of the RRs examined were regarded as dysplastic. If we apply that percentage to the seventy dogs scored in 1999 (i.e. we assume a constant quality from an H.D. point of view) we would expect 5 (4,76) dogs to be dysplastic which isn't much different from the four that would be considered unsuitable under the Zimbabwe approach. We are only playing with statistics here but it looks in broad terms that South Africa, Sweden and Switzerland look at the gradings one way whereas FCI, UK, USA, Germany, Netherlands and Finland use a slightly different approach with Zimbabwe being almost the same as the larger group, but using 20 whereas the large group uses 18. The difference between these two groups concerns border-line transitional (B2 according to FCI) and covers scores between 12 and 18 on the UK (BVA/KC) scheme.

Apart from a few pages of club notices and commercial ads forty-three pages of advertisements then follow which are displayed in the names of the various kennels complete with generous photo coverage of their dogs. More than thirty breeders (Kennels) have supported the year-book by buying space in its A5 format which is a remarkable achievement and must go a long way towards rendering this publication financially viable/successful. It is really well worth reading if only to see what their dogs look like. ■

## SNAKES !!

After a fairly close encounter with a huge "Rinkhals" whilst compiling this edition of Horse Trading, even if it was only to try and persuade my dogs that a snake is not something you deliberately annoy! I thought I'd dig out my old copy of "Poisonous S.A. Snakes" and then I decided to warn our readers that these "friends" of a slithering kind are becoming fairly active now that the weather is really warming up. This particular snake, the one that tried to have my dogs for lunch, was a very mature specimen, as thick as my arm, (the fat part of my forearm)! and the longest I've even seen, certainly over 1.5m ! When it "hooded" to

warn off the dogs, it's head stood as high as my Great Dane's back!! These snakes, according to the book, are also good actors and can pretend to be dead when threatened, and then strike at any moment. (Lovely! ) They also have a venom spitting range of up to 2.5m!! Try explaining these tricks to your dogs, mine still wanted to bark at it !! We all survived, and the snake is still out there somewhere, (scary thought).. So ! be on the look-out! and it wouldn't be a bad idea to remind your staff to take note too. The Tvl Snake Park will supply you with Tel. nos of people in your area who collect snakes, some of them charge a fee, others ask for petrol money, they all release the snakes!!

From: "Horse Trading" 1999



# SELLING RELOCATED PUPPIES

**W**e have mentioned before that breeders in the more active centres should come to some arrangement with their counterparts in less populated areas. Recently, a very nice litter was whelped up at Punda Maria but though many people like to visit the KNP they don't do so with the intention of choosing a puppy; we know this very well now from experience.



So more than half the litter came down to Johannesburg for final sale, and we choose this word "final" because two were already spoken for - the buyers still had to inspect them.

We probably chose the worst possible time to do this; though they were just on eight weeks old at the time the relocation happened when winter hit Johannesburg at its hardest. The pups left the comparative warmth of minimums approximating 14 degrees and were dumped into night time temperatures approaching negative two centigrade. And the trip down was no cakewalk either; this nasty weather was not restricted solely to Johannesburg.

Whatever changes took place in their regular routine however were not ascertained, but they certainly appeared to be boisterous enough. As soon as the sunshine hit their patch they were all outside and sitting in it: unfortunately it was not up to their expectations and they parked there, closely huddled together, and shivered. They enjoyed very good health in spite of the drastic climatic changes and the veterinary profession benefited by not one Rand. Looking back on it one must accept that they were in excellent health on arrival, even if they had managed to cover the back of the bakkie with a very generous coating of vomit.

There are obvious risks involved in moving a bunch of pups from one area to another and the drastic climatic changes experienced above are not to be recommended. Nonetheless it does help to move genetic material around the country and though that was not the objective in this instance, it probably would be the result in the normal course of events. ■



FROM THE NET

## HUMOUR?!?

Day three of the Tar Heel Circuit - my dog, Jude, had not yet taken his "constitutional", and I was worried. I had this nightmare picture of him taking a dump in the ring halfway through judging. Never had this trouble before. I know that handlers use matches to stimulate the ol' Hershey Highway. But, how many and which end goes in first, etc., etc???

I checked with my handler, and he said "3 book matches side by side, sulphur end in first." I don't smoke, (gave it up 20 years ago - brag, brag, gag, gag) so I'm going around the show building asking perfect strangers, "Would you, by any chance, have a book of matches?". Finally, after asking about a dozen people, one lady said, "I don't smoke, but I carry them for when my dogs won't take a dump."

OK, so I head out to what I feel is a somewhat private place on the fairgrounds. I tear off 3 matches, and I proceed to hold Jude's leash and stick these matches where they're supposed to go. Jude is not co-operating - AT ALL. So I stretch his leash around a tree trunk, snap the leash to his collar, and I try inserting the matches. Jude is still being most unco-operative. Can't say as I blame him. A car pulls up, and I hear a voice asking, "Do you need some help?" I said, "I'm trying to shove a book of matches up my dog's butt. Do you still want to help?" Car drove off like a shot. Finally, after much coaxing and quick maneuvers on my part, I plant the matches. 15 seconds later - SUCCESS. It was a good thing I had a halfdozen napkins and a large plastic bag. Heading back to the trailer, I thought to myself, "If anybody tries to mug us and I hit them up side their head with this bag, it'll give them a concussion." Today, Jude was very misbehaved in the ring. My handler said he did better before he was "cleaned out." Can't win for tryin'!

HEALTH

## DERMOID SINUS

Jennifer Trueland reported in "The Scotsman" of 17 September, 1999, that research showed there was a need for action on spina bifida due to the 80 - 100 babies born annually in Scotland suffering from the disease. In view of the similarity between this disease in humans and dermoid sinus in our dogs, it is worth noting this small part of the article:-

"Health campaigners are calling for the vitamin folic acid to be added to common foodstuffs - including 'junk food' - to cut the number of children born with spina bifida.

The Scottish Spina Bifida Association warned it was vital for women planning to become pregnant to take

the food supplement prior to conceiving, not just during pregnancy."

The article continues in lengthy detail. It also provides a graph showing that from a starting point of 45 cases per 10 000 births in 1979 they had improved to 30 in 1982, 20 in 1983, and 15 in 1988, where they hit a plateau, hence the call for draconian measures.

The incidence of dermoid sinus in our dogs is mercifully low and we have no reports to indicate that breeders are taking special measures to reduce it further. The scourge has not disappeared however, and in October of last year a further case came to light involving an adult dog. ■