Lucas Terrier Club Newsletter

Summer 2009

President    Miss Jumbo Frost
Chairman    The Hon Mrs Annabel Whitehead
Secretary/N'Letter Editor    Mrs Pamela Harrow
Treasurer    Mr Allan Harrow

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Enclosures – Show entry/Club re-subscription form; class information and directions; and IVDD Vet questionnaire

SHOW DATE: 4th October 2009

CLOSING DATE FOR SHOW ENTRY 18/09/2009: NO LATE ENTRIES WILL BE TAKEN
Letter from the President

Dear Everyone

I just cannot let any Lucas terrier publication go forward without saying the most gigantic Thank You to Sarah Mason for, once again, organising the most marvellous Evening Drinks Party in London in Battersea Park, of all places, on Thursday 14th May to “commemorate” my Horrid Big Birthday. About 90 people turned up and I reckon nearly as many dogs, but maybe less! And not only the London Brigade but also so very many people from far and wide – quite a lot of whom I hadn’t seen for years!

It was just wonderful, everyone had taken so much trouble to come and from the dog side of things all the more poignant to see so many of my babies who were born in my bedroom, as often they can’t make our Annual Dog Show, or else don’t want to “do” the showing!!

Sarah has done this on several occasions, two or three times at her Rutland Gate home and lastly, three years ago, at an institution in Flood Street, which we all thought worked jolly well at the time, but my, this new venue in Battersea Park, a distinguished café by the lake, was a wow. I would thoroughly recommend it for any occasion – children’s parties and good for grown-ups as well. We didn’t have the very best of weather but the rain held off until later on and there were few Lucas terrier altercations!

Sheila and Neil Thorne so kindly organised the tombola, which was a welcome financial contribution towards the structure of the evening, and everyone attending was good enough to part with a tenner to help defray costs.

I can’t thank Sarah – and everyone who came – enough for a really special evening. We just had the odd drink and some delicious food, all supplied by the restaurateur, Jimmy, from Spain, and his team; he’d also been responsible for a mini-band which made everything frightfully jolly! Geoffrey Shakerley took some marvellous photographs and Sarah gave me a wonderful album in which to put them and all other magic moments of my Horrid Big Birthday, which turned out to be the Best of All!

Hopefully we’ll have some fine weather and fun for our Annual Lucas Show – Sunday 4th October – and for me, it’s wonderful to see everyone there.

Jumbo
Secretary's Notes

Apologies

So sorry that I attributed the breeding of Alexander Langford's Luca wrongly on the front page of the last newsletter. Luca was, of course, bred by Judy Colville, as noted inside. Also, I meant to say that the Youngest Handler prize, donated by Miss Jean Henderson, went to Blanca Parlade handling her grandparents' Hoyer Miller's Molly. My memory lapses seem to be the most recent indication that I have well and truly entered into the world of Senior Moments!

Arrivals

Allfrey's George x Cusack's Angelica 3 males : 1 female (Wright); Allfrey's George x Frost's Fantail 2 males : 1 female (Adams); Champagne Castle des Sables du Nord x Northern Sand's Baileys 2 males : 2 females (Hazebroucq); Kinsridge Cruise Control x Frost's Pebbles 1 male : 2 females (Frost)

Departures

Jo Rodwell e-mailed to say that Colville's Treacle had passed away on 9th March at the grand old age of 15 years. Jo's tribute to Treacle is in this issue.

Sealyhams

2008 was not a particularly good year for Lucas puppies being born - just over 40 - and it would appear that one of our parent breeds is experiencing similar problems. A number of Lucas owners pointed me in the direction of an article in the Independent newspaper which said:

"Played with by Humphrey Bogart, cuddled by Elizabeth Taylor and walked by Alfred Hitchcock in one of his films, they were once more or less members of the Royal Family and among the most popular dogs on the planet.

But you'll be lucky to catch sight of any Sealyham terriers today: the breed is declining so fast that extinction beckons. More than 1,000 Sealyham pups a year used to be registered with the Kennel Club but in 2008 there were just 43.

Originally bred in Wales in the 19th century as a working terrier, the Sealyham appears to have become the victim of what propelled it to fame in the first place - fashion. Between the wars, up to the 1960s, it was almost a must-have accessory for your pooch loving celeb, especially in the movie industry. At the beginning of Hitchcock's 1963 horror film 'The Birds' the director, in typical cameo appearance, is seen walking his two Sealyham terriers, Geoffrey and Stanley, out of a shop as Tippi Hedren (the star) walks in. Hitchcock also owned a third Sealyham called Mr Jenkins. Cary Grant owned one called Archie Leach (his own real name) and Princess Margaret had Pippin. It was a dog to be seen with. But fashions change. "These days Hollywood stars like little continental dogs such as Chihuahuas and Shihtzus in their handbags," says Paul Keevil, formerly of the Kennel Club's vulnerable breeds committee, "This is one reason why the numbers are dwindling."

"Traditionally, soon after Sealyhams were born their tails were docked in half," Mr Keevil said, "That was because they were small working dogs and they quite often got stuck down holes, and so they needed short, strong tails for the owner to pull them out."

"After the animal welfare legislation came into force, a lot of older breeders started to look at them differently." One of the few breeders left in Britain who is turning out pedigree Sealyhams is Kevin Holmes, 61, of Ringwood, Hampshire. "Sealyham terriers are full of character, very loving and very dedicated to their owners," Mr Holmes said. "They are also good with children."

"People who tend to have them get them because they can remember their grandparents having one. But those sort of owners are becoming fewer and fewer as time moves on."

This has a knock on effect for Lucas breeding as there are fewer Sealyhams dogs to choose from if one wants to go for a full bred Sealyham and also it makes it more difficult to avoid the lines we already have, some of which we know may bring spinal problems with them.

Sir Jocelyn Lucas sold Sealyham puppies to a number of Hollywood stars of yesteryear, including Sir Alfred Hitchcock. The Ilmer pack appeared in a film 'A Storm In A Teacup' made in 1937, starring Vivien Leigh and Rex Harrison (it is available on DVD, I have a copy, complete with Chinese subtitles, obtained from eBay).
The difference I think between the Lucas and the plight of the Sealyham is that people WANT Lucas terriers, but there are not enough people breeding them. I do feel it is a great pity that so many people opt for more exotic breeds nowadays and our native breeds are, as a result, in severe decline.

Back To Backs

As you will recall, I discussed the problems with IVDD in the last newsletter. If anyone wants to read more detail there is a more information on the Lucas Terrier Club website - address is www.lucasterrier.co.uk/health.html

It was always my intention to keep track of the results of any x-raying that was done but I have to be honest and say that I was not prepared to put a lot of effort into this if Lucas owners turned into a damp squib by not participating,

Sir Alfred Hitchcock and Mr Jenkins, one of his Sealyhams

I am pleased to report that most owners have taken this issue seriously. However, I have had calls and emails from some saying they don’t think they need to x-ray their dog because he or she has never had any back pain. These tend to be owners of young dogs and it should be emphasised that even though the age we ask that the dog is x-rayed at is 18 months to 24 months the youngest dog I know about that has had major back problems was 46 months (3 years and 10 months) with most being 48 months plus. So, just because an adolescent doesn’t display any signs of back problems does not mean they won’t be affected in the future.

To allow me to monitor the situation, I enclose a copy of a questionnaire that when a dog is x-rayed I would ask you to have your Vet complete, and then the form should be returned to me so that the information can be added to the database.

X-Ray Results

So far this year, Liz Allen’s Mains’ Annie Rose was x-rayed (Kemilquin Greenfinch ex Peat’s Gypsy Rose) and no calcification was detected. Rebecca Hervey’s Rodwell’s Moisy (Off The Cuff by Richell ex Rodwell’s Teasel) also got a clean bill of health. Unfortunately, the news was not so good for the Dettmer family’s Dettmer’s Beetle (Allfrey’s George ex Chillingworth’s Pippin) as he was found to have in excess of 5 areas of calcification and will not now be bred from. Jumbo Frost too her Frost’s Pebbles (Jumbeeden Guinness ex Frost’s Martha) to be x-rayed and she was given the all clear, as was Chris and Marcia Dunn’s Richards’ Briningham Belle (Jumbeeden Guinness ex Townsend’s Norfolk Broad) and Zoe Bing’s Mains’ Millie (Kemilquin Greenfinch ex Peat’s Gypsy Rose). Another clear result was Lynette Langford’s Peat’s Hyacinth (Krisma Crossfire ex Peat’s Erica) and Colville’s Luca (Rodwell’s Archie ex Frost’s Harriet). Luca is in Hertfordshire and available at stud. Emma Dryburgh had Upton’s Daisy (Thomas’ Buster Keaton ex Whitehead’s Poppy) x-rayed and she had one small area of calcification, but nothing to be concerned about according to her Vet. Margaret Beales reported zero calcification for Lyndonbrook Teddy (Newnes Antique Copper ex Synni Lyngstad). Teddy is in Norfolk and available at stud. Mike and Wendy Neilson’s Inchyra Susie (Hopkirk’s Barney ex Hoyer Millar’s Molly) got a clean bill of health when she was x-rayed as did Amanda Barge’s Frost’s Damson (Jumbeeden Guinness ex Frost’s Mistletoe). Avril Stephens reported in June that her male Lucas’ Cracker (Frost’s Maverick ex Chillingworth’s Bella), known as Jack, had been given an overall lean bill of health with very slight shadowing noted between T1/T2.
and T2/T3. Jack is available at stud and is in Shropshire. Jack's sister Lucas' Tinkerbelle, owned by the Fox family in Cornwall, has also had an all clear. In June Susie Eliot-Cohen's Whitehead's Tittlemouse (Rodwell's Archie ex Whitehead's Toil BFB) had a clear result and was then mated a few days later, so an eventful week for her! Lastly, in July, Dryburgh's Minnie Mouse (Frost's Friskie ex Upton's Daisy), owned by Johnny Dryburgh in Glasgow got the all clear. So, overall the results have been extremely positive. Come on all you dog owners, you need to do your bit too – where are all those bitch owners going to if hardly anyone x-rays their males? Currently, due to this dearth of males having been x-rayed, I am suggesting to those who want to breed, if at all appropriate, they go to a Norfolk because this condition is uncommon in Norfolks, but we can't keep doing that, we need to get back into Lucas lines...............so get x-raying!

**A further health issue to be monitored**

In 2008 Ros Armitage told me that her boy, Service's Macintosh (Salli's Socks ex Allfreys Coco Bean), had been diagnosed with a condition called craniomandibular osteopathy, CMO for short, or sometimes referred to as Westie or Lion Jaw. I had heard of this condition as Annabel Whitehead had been told Snippet had it, but it later turned out that it was a hairline fracture in her jaw mimicking the symptoms of DMO. Therefore, if Mac definitely had the condition he was the first I had heard of in Lucas terriers – and later it turned out to be so.

Now this year I have heard of another case, in a puppy called Wright's Benjamin (Allfrey's George ex Cusack's Angelica).

An explanation of this condition that I found is that it 'is a developmental disease in dogs causing extensive bony changes in the mandible and skull. In this disease there is a cyclical resorption of normal bone and replacement by immature bone along the inner and outer surfaces of the affected bones. It usually occurs between the ages of 3 and 8 months. Breeds most commonly affected include the West Highland White terrier, Scottish terrier, Cairn terrier and Boston terrier. It is rare in large breed dogs, but it has been reported. Symptoms include firm swelling of the jaw, drooling, pain and difficulty eating. It is an inherited disease, especially in Westies, in which it has been recognised as an autosomal recessive trait. Canine distemper has also been indicated as a possible cause, as has E. coli infection, which could be why it is seen occasionally in large breed dogs. Growth of lesions will usually stop around the age of one year, and possibly regress, This timing coincides with the normal completion of endochondral bone growth and ossification.'

So, not life threatening but may cause misery and discomfort to the dogs affected by it for the period it lasts (the symptoms can range from very slight - off food for a day or two - to quite severe pain. Treatment may be aspirin, doggy ibuprofen or steroids. With only two instances it is impossible to say what the mode of inheritance is in Lucas terriers but I think we have to assume that it is an autosomal recessive with all of the parents carrying one copy of the bad gene that causes this condition. If we assume all puppies descending from these parents are liable to carry CMO (apart from the two we know to be affected) then we can take care to avoid breeding too closely to other related dogs, I do like simple autosomal recessives, if we are to have a problem then this is about the best it can be, as autosomal recessives are fairly easily managed, unlike the back problem which is likely of a polygenetic type and much more difficult to keep on top of.

On my genetics online list I found this information: Research to develop a DNA marker test to identify carrier, clear and affected CMO animals has been funded cooperatively by the Cairn, Scottish and West Highland White Terrier Clubs in conjunction with the American Kennel Club Health Foundation. The research work began in 1998.' I have been in touch with VetGen to find out more about the progress of the marker test and they passed my enquiry on, but I am sorry to say that the researcher, Dr Patrick Venta, has failed to come back to me,

Amy Lewis writes elsewhere in this edition about her experience with this condition.

**A picture paints a thousand words**

In summer of 2008 Bob and Lili Whitmer in Fairfield, Connecticut, USA had a litter of Lucas pups from their Lucas bitch, Lulu. Father was Bob and Ann Book Mason's Ollie (Frost's Ollie Merriwether Lewis). One of the puppies, called London, flew to Susan Fant in Texas. The
PHOTOGRAPH below is of Susan, her granddaughter Piper and London when they met in the airport for the first time, such joy!

PHOTOGRAPH NO LONGER AVAILABLE

Birthday Congratulations

I know Jumbo thoroughly enjoyed all her 70th birthday celebrations but no doubt a favourite party would have been the London bash organised by Sarah Mason with a number of Lucas terriers in attendance. Sarah has written a piece for the newsletter. Happy birthday, Jumbo, and wishing you many more!

And finally………………new broom required

As I am sure most of you will know I began carrying out secretarial duties for the Lucas Terrier Club in 1991 and as time has gone on I have taken on a range of other duties on behalf of the Club that I hadn’t intended to, but they fell into my lap somehow. I did say way back in the beginning that I would move aside to allow those who had Lucas terriers to take over the running of the Club for themselves. However, somehow year followed on year and time just slipped by, as it does, and I never got around to leaving.

Recently, however, due to work commitments, I decided that I must begin to distribute the duties. Therefore, over the next 18 munts or so I would hope that various tasks that I currently undertake are picked up by those of you have Lucas terriers and really should be taking responsibility for them. These duties will include running the website; maintaining the puppy seeker lists; issuing registrations and updating the breed register; keeping the pedigree database up to date; maintaining the membership lists; compiling and printing the show catalogue; ordering cups and rosettes for the show, and last, but not least, producing the newsletter – all of which I currently do with no assistance.

Newsletter: This is the first task that I would like someone to take from me. I previously had done this then James Lucas took over. James, unfortunately, suffered some health setbacks so it has come back to me. You all get a newsletter so can see what would be involved in producing it without me going into pointless and tedious detail (just don’t forget about the printing of each edition and the envelope stuffing). I would provide a list of current members for each edition to be sent to - until the task of recording members is allocated elsewhere, of course. Newsletter production is a fairly thankless task but no need to worry too much about content as a time back I was told by a member that ‘no one reads the newsletter’. If no one volunteers to take on any duties then I guess that will be proof she’s right!

In the next newsletter I will discuss the work involved in the registration of litters and issuing of registration certificates – these two duties need to go as a job lot. I hope someone who is computer literate will take this job on in due course. For the foreseeable future I will retain the pedigree database as it is used to determine whether matings are suitable or not and I will continue to monitor this.

Further duties will be distributed, hopefully, as time goes on. Some of them are on-going and others require short bursts of activity then it all goes quiet, so there will be something to suit everyone!

I will remain on hand to offer assistance and advice until each person feels comfortable in their role. I don’t want anyone to think I am jumping ship, because I am not. However, I want to make it clear that by 2011 I would like all tasks mentioned above to be allocated as I, most definitely, will be scaling back on the amount I do for the Club.

Those interested in taking on any of the tasks above should get in touch with me and we can talk about it.

Pamela Harrow

Perpetual Cups and Trophies to be returned

Enid Plummer Cup (Best Junior Bitch) Frost’s Pebbles; Breckland Cup (Best Junior Dog) Lyndonbrook Teddy; St Martin’s Targe (Best Novice Dog) Allfrey’s George; Thorne Cup (Best Open Dog) Colville’s Luca; Busy Bowl (Best Head) Frost’s Harry Stockley; Cucrodh Cup (Best Coat) Hopkirk’s Barney; Thomas Cup (Best Handler/Presentation) Northern Sand’s Baileys; Mtoto Cup (Best Veteran) Frost’s Martha; Bimbi Bullshot (Best Bitch In Show) Frost’s Pebbles; Tippytoes Trophy (Best of Winners) Frost’s Mistletoe.
Treacle was such a wonderful dog and a real asset to the development of the breed. She lived with my parents for the last 10 of her 15 years and during her long and happy life did not have any health problems (bar having a few teeth out). She was bred by Damer and Judy Colville and was out of Irwin’s Flossie by Howard’s Dusty. Her litter brother, Colville’s Monte, owned by Paddy and Jenny Hopkirk, was also a real star on the breeding circuit. Treacle was a wonderful mother, she had 3 litters of puppies that included Rodwell’s Maxim and Rodwell’s Teasel, both of whom went on to father and mother many litters. Rodwell’s Teasel was particularly prolific, being mated with Rita Mitchell’s champion Norfolk ‘Cookie’ (Ch Richell Claret), who was father to Coco, the USA and UK Crufts winner (Best In Show) in 2005. It is thanks to Treacle’s success that we have dogs like Rodwell’s Archie who has been one of the best sires the breed has had in recent years. Treacle lived a full and very happy life right to the end.
Ollie and Lulu’s six puppies were born on the eighth day of the eighth month in the eighth year of the new century (lucky dogs) by artificial insemination. The insemination was carried out in June 2008 outside Providence, Rhode Island and was overseen by Dr William Truesdale. Dr Truesdale is one of the best dog reproduction vets in America. Artificial insemination (AI) is the way he breeds dogs and with great success.

Dr Truesdale took Ollie’s semen by hand, cut a tiny hole in Lulu’s uterus and put the semen through the small hole. There was no need to chill or freeze the semen as Lulu was up here with him at his clinic. Had Lulu been at home in Fairfield, Connecticut, he would have chilled the semen and sent it by FedEx to Lulu’s Vet in Fairfield. If semen is in transit over 24 hours it must be frozen.

We are going to try again with Laurie Crouch’s Maggie in April 2009. Her uterus may need to be cut and we don’t know yet if it will be done up here or in Richmond, Virginia, where Maggie stays. No anaesthesia is used in the process.

Breeding dogs in this method began here in the US in the 1960s and significant improvements have occurred in the last ten years. The American Kennel Club approved this method in 2006. This year a Standard Poodle (Ch Randenn Tristar Affirmation, known as ‘Yes’) won the non-sporting group at Westminster, having been produced by the use of 25 year old frozen semen from Ch Eaton Affirmed.

Lulu and Ollie produced six beautiful puppies, three males and three females. They are scattered around the US – one on the west coast, two in Texas and three here in New England.
The End of Squirrel Hunting for Spike

Norman Norrington says that Spike has always been a chunky chap but it has to be said that part of this bulk is good solid muscle built up when patrolling his home in Long Melford, Suffolk, ensuring that it remains a squirrel-free zone. Recently, however, the grey invaders have been getting a bit of a respite as poor old Spike has been laid up with a blown ACL (anterior cruciate ligament). The ACL is crucial to normal function of the knee joint in the dog’s back legs and injuries occur when there is rapid deceleration, followed by a sharp or sudden change in direction, as well as twisting or turning the knee while landing, so it is a common footballing injury in humans.

Spike had developed an occasional limp after prolonged patrolling, so was whisked off to the Vet to have it checked out. An exploratory operation found the ligament was completely ruptured, so in early April poor Spike had holes drilled in his leg and a synthetic ligament inserted. Then back home, armed with a veritable cornucopia of medicines, including morphine, which Debbie and Norman believe made Spike hallucinate, to recuperate for 6 weeks. Norman has developed biceps like Popeye from lugging all 12.5 kilos (27.5 lbs) of Spike up and down stairs!

I hear Spike is now up on his feet and here’s wishing him a speedy recovery, though the squirrels probably won’t be too pleased to see him again now he has a bionic leg!
I know I shouldn’t assume but sometimes I do. As a long time dog owner pieces of information have been picked up along the way and because I know something I am guilty of thinking that other dog owners know it too – maybe by some sort of osmosis or collective consciousness. So, I have to admit that I was quite taken aback when a few months ago I received a telephone call from a lady reporting the death of her Lucas terrier after he had eaten a quantity of chocolate and she hadn’t realised the danger this posed to him.

Half a good quality dark chocolate Easter egg had been left on a low coffee table. The dog jumped upon the table and, in that time honoured fashion of dogs the world over, scoffed the lot. Later that evening he was sick, it was cleared up and the incident more or less forgotten. The next day he seemed hale and hearty, went out for his morning walk and dropped down dead in the street.

One of the components of chocolate is theobromine which in dogs (and cats) stimulates the central nervous and cardiovascular systems, causes a mild increase in blood pressure, muscle tremors, hyperactivity, diarrhoea, excessive urination, nausea and vomiting,

Dark cooking chocolate is by far the worst type a dog can eat as it contains 8 – 10 times the amount of theobromine found in milk chocolate; and semi-sweet dark chocolate, like Bourneville, falls between dark cooking chocolate and milk chocolate. White chocolate contains theobromine but in very small amounts.

The toxic dose of theobromine is 100 – 200 mgs per kilo of dog, but there may be problems at much lower doses (as little as 20 mgs per kilo of dog).

There is no cure-all for theobromine toxicity. A Vet may recommend IV fluids, emetics or activated charcoal to try and get it fully out of the dog’s system but it very much a wait with fingers crossed situation.

Being selfish can sometimes be a good thing – never share a chocolate bar with your dog.
Dealing with Craniomandibular Osteopathy
By Amy Lewis

We first notice something wasn’t quite right when our puppy, Benjamin, started to become a bit withdrawn. Rather than run around and nip our heels, he’d sit or lie down and just watch us, and he was spending more time in his crate (we keep the door open so he can go in and out whenever he wants). To be honest, I just thought his teeth might be hurting him but the next day he was more miserable and really not himself. He wouldn’t eat his food, which at the time was dried, unless I added quite a bit of water to soften it and then instead of finishing it really quickly as usual he did take a bit longer. He didn’t want to go for a walk which was also not normal and he’s stopped biting our feet, which although a welcome relief wasn’t normal! As he was still eating and doing his business as usual I waited till the next morning to take him to the Vets hoping he would bounce back overnight, but by then he seemed to have gotten worse and didn’t want to get out of his crate, so we were lucky to get an 8am appointment. Unfortunately the Vet misdiagnosed him as having a stomach virus with a very high temperature. As his condition did not improve during the day and he was refusing to drink water out of his bowl I knew something was very wrong and had a feeling it was more to do with his mouth than his stomach, so we rushed him to the emergency Vet that night, where he was admitted, given pain relief and put on a drip to rehydrate him.

He was diagnosed there with the condition CMO because of the following symptoms:
He screamed in pain when they tried to look in his mouth;
He had a very high temperature and calcium enzymes in his liver were very high;
He was not vomiting and did not have diarrhoea

His diagnosis was confirmed through x-rays the next day at our Vets. He has been given the doggy equivalent of ibuprofen to control the pain.

This first episode lasted about a week, after which he has bounced back to his normal self. I stopped giving him pain medicine as soon as I thought he was okay and he’s been fine - back to normal. I now give him a mixture of canned food with some dry and an added bit of water which he loves and will be less painful for him when the next episode happens.

I have been advised that this condition will last 9 months and then he’ll be normal. When he gets sick, like with all animals, it is very distressing as they can’t speak to you and just look at you with very sad eyes, however I know what is happening to him and have been given medication so that I can treat him as soon as I notice any symptoms, thus alleviating as much pain as possible to both him and me!

Having never heard of this disease before it was very shocking when it happened to us, however it’s not terminal, it only lasts 9 months or so and your puppy does come back after each episode. Occasionally there are problems if the bones build up and fuse at the joints of the jaw, but we’ll tackle this if it happens; surgery is an option. Unfortunately there is nothing anyone can do to prevent or treat this condition other than administer pain killers.

Benjamin is a very handsome and incredibly affectionate puppy. He has a wonderful temperament and we wouldn’t change him for the world. We feel very lucky to have him in our lives. Yes, this condition is hard but it’s not forever. It is a very rare disease that most Vets have never even seen before, so I would advise you perhaps pass this account on to anyone
wanting a Lucas from his side of the family, so that they can watch for the warning signs and catch it early rather than having to go through what we did. Poor Benjy was given pain killers on the first visit that conflicted with the ones specifically for his condition so he had to wait for the others to clear his system before I could treat his pain.

I think it is important to remember that this is a rare disease and most puppies will not develop it. It is genetic, but it’s a bit like the lottery. None of the other puppies in Benjy’s litter have developed it. If a puppy develops CMO, which is usually diagnosed, I think, between 3 & 9 months, there isn’t anything really wrong with them other than they have to endure waves of intense pain which coincide with growth spurts, but do not appear to last more than a week. They are still very beautiful, otherwise healthy, happy, loving dogs. They’ll just have thicker lower jaws and a thicker skull. Benjamin has what was described as ‘a helmet’ but to me that just gives him added protection!

Lucas terriers are very special creatures and I think people need to remember this before they dismiss a litter because of a risk of developing CMO. It is not the end of the world and I think it is far more important to have a sane dog with CMO than an inbred psycho without!

The disease is covered by insurance so I would definitely advise people to have this. Benjamin’s bill for his first Vet visit, overnight stay at the emergency clinic, drugs, tests, x-rays etc. over the 2 days was around £800.

I read an article on the internet based on West Highland White terriers that said there is a gene that both the male and female have to have in order to pass CMO on through their litter. Obviously if one could avoid spreading this disease that would be preferable.

If anyone with a puppy diagnosed with CMO would like to talk to me they can email me on amylewis75@yahoo.co.uk

Ilmer Sealyhams after a day’s hunting
Photographs  Carol Ann Johnson  Humblebee House
   Email  Johnson@dogphotos.co.uk
   www.dogphotos.co.uk  West Felton
   Oswestry  SY11 4EN
   Tel 01691 610906

Portraits  Chris Wilkinson  3 Malvern Court
   Email  chris@chriswilkinson.co.uk
   33 Mapperley Road  Nottingham
   NG3 5AG  Tel 0115 9856459
   Mob 07974382443

Handstripping  Brinkworth Kennels  The Paddocks
   Brinkworth  Wiltshire  Tel 01666 510295

Cushions  Miranda Goodman  Toathill House
   Simfold  West Sussex  RH13 0RL
   Tel 01403 790264

Please note that the Council of Docked Breeds is not accepting new members. Also they no longer offer existing members introductions to docking vets, as, due to the large decrease in numbers of vets docking under the new regulations, they can no longer guarantee coverage throughout England and Wales. Therefore, information previously supplied here on this organisation has now been removed.

Whelping Box  Newdog Ltd  18 Lodge Hill Industrial Park
   www.newdog.co.uk  Station Road
   Westbury sub Mendip  Wells
   BA5 1EY  Tel 01749 870979

Recommended Dog Sitter

An email for Lynette Langford advises that anyone looking for a dog sitter may like to consider her friend Di Magner. She says that Di is very experienced in looking after Lucas terriers, having practiced on the Langford Three, but can and will, look after any breed of dog in your home. Lynette says Di is very reliable, completely honest and can supply references. Di lives in London but is happy to travel to other parts of the country. She can be contacted on her mobile number which is 07952837731.
The skies over Battersea Park may have been overcast but the mood at the London Lucas Terrier Drinks Party on 14 May was sunny and warm. Over 100 adults and children (and that’s not counting the Lucas terriers!) gathered for what was the fifth Lucas terrier drinks get-together. We have come a long way since our first party when all seven of us sat on my sofa with our dogs for the official photo.

This year’s party was extra special because we were celebrating Jumbo’s ‘big horrid birthday’ (as she called it). It was a nice opportunity for friends to get together and for those who have been breeding to see their ‘offspring’. Lots of wine and hors-d’oeuvres were consumed courtesy of Jimmy and his lovely team at the Gondola Café and lively background music was provided by the band ‘Chacha’ who sang an intriguing rendition of ‘Happy Birthday Mr Jumbo’.

Sheila and Neil Thorne generously donated a tombola and Geoffrey Shakerley took some great photos which we will display at the Show in October. All in all, it was an extremely jolly night.

Many thanks to everyone from making the effort to come and apologise if we overlooked any of you. We try very hard to round up as many London Lucas terrier owners and friends as possible but inevitably some slip through the net. Perhaps we should start a website ‘London Lucas Terriers Reunited’??!!