



## Greater Twin Cities Dalmatian Club Newsletter

January/February 2011



© 2011 C. Bryant  
Gretchen - Choco Chip Ravin Redneck Woman relaxing at Meet the Breed.

Fellow Members,

As we have all seen, most dog clubs (specialty & all-breed) around the country have felt the significant effects of the economy around us. Our club is no different. We have seen our club's main source of revenue, the specialty, decline in entries and attendance.

Based on discussions with the Board and membership it was decided that in 2011 we will not be having a specialty. In its place our club will go with a "supported entry" the last weekend of August in conjunction with the Amana Cluster (IA.) if we can get the details worked out. In this way, we as an organization can still be out there representing the Dalmatian Breed while improving our cash position. We can then evaluate our position late in 2011 to decide the direction the club should move towards in 2012.

I would like to thank all the GTCDC Members for working together to move us in a positive direction going forward.

Rick Miller  
GT CDC President



# A Different Way to Spay

January 2, 2011

This blog presents an idea that will be new for many of you and may be new for your veterinarians as well. I thought presenting a novel idea would be a great way to kick off the new year!



Taking a fresh look at the things we take for granted can be wonderfully enlightening. Sometimes, the little light bulb overhead begins to sizzle and sparkle, illuminating a new and better way of doing things. Consider this example- when some savvy veterinarians took a fresh look at performing spays, a surgery we've been doing the exact same way for decades, guess what happened! They came up with a revised technique that accomplishes all of the objectives of the spay surgery with fewer complications! How cool is that!

Spay is the term used for neutering a female dog. As I was taught in veterinary school, the medical jargon for spaying is ovariectomy (OVH). "Ovario" refers to ovaries, "hyster" refers to uterus, and "ectomy" means removal of. In other words, spaying the traditional way involves surgical removal of the uterus and both ovaries. The objectives of the spay surgery are to render the dog infertile, eliminate the mess and behavioral issues associated with a female dog in heat, and prevent diseases that may afflict the uterus and ovaries later in life. Thanks to some innovative veterinarians, what we now know is that ovariectomy (OVE)- removal of just the ovaries sans uterus accomplishes these objectives just as effectively as does the OVH. And, here's the icing on the cake- removal of the ovaries alone results in fewer complications when compared to removal of the ovaries and uterus combined.

Here's a simple short course in canine female reproductive anatomy and physiology that will help explain why leaving the uterus behind makes sense. The shape of the uterus resembles the capital letter "Y". The body of the uterus is the stem and the two uterine horns represent the top bars of the "Y". An ovary is connected to the free end of each uterine horn by a delicate structure called a fallopian tube (transports the egg from the ovary into the uterus). While the uterus has only one purpose (housing developing fetuses), the ovaries are multitaskers. They are the source of eggs of course and, in conjunction with hormones released by the pituitary gland, ovarian hormones dictate when the female comes into heat and becomes receptive to the male, when she goes out of heat, when she ovulates, and when her uterus is amenable to relaxing and stretching to house developing fetuses. After the ovaries and the hormones they produce have been removed from the body the uterus remains inert. The dog no longer shows symptoms of heat, nor can she conceive. Additionally, any chance of developing ovarian cystic disease or cancer is eliminated.

What happens when we leave the uterus behind- is it not subject to becoming diseased later in life? Here's the good news- the incidence of uterine disease in dogs whose ovaries have been removed is exceptionally low. Pyometra (pus within the uterus), is the most common uterine disorder in unspayed dogs, and typically necessitates emergency surgery to remove the uterus. Without the influence of progesterone, a hormone produced by the ovaries, pyometra does

*Cont. on page 3*

**Cont. from page 2**

not naturally occur. The incidence of uterine cancer is extremely low in dogs (0.4% of all canine tumors)- hardly a worry, and studies have shown that the frequency of adult onset urinary incontinence (urine leakage) is the same whether or not the uterus is removed during the spay procedure.

If you are not already convinced that the “new spay is the better way”, consider the following complications that can be mitigated or avoided all together when the uterus remains unscathed:

- Compared to an OVH, an OVE requires less time in the operating room. This translates into decreased likelihood of anesthetic complications.
- Removal of the uterus requires that the surgeon perform more difficult ligations (tying off of large blood vessels and surrounding tissues with suture material before making cuts to release the organs from the body). A uterine body ligation that isn't tied quite tightly enough can result in excessive bleeding into the abdominal cavity and may necessitate blood transfusions and/or a second surgery to stop the bleeding.
- The ureters (thin delicate tubes that transport urine from each kidney to the bladder) run adjacent to the body of the uterus. If a surgeon is not being extremely careful, it is possible to ligate and obstruct a ureter in the course of removing the uterus. This devastating complication requires a second corrective surgery, however damage to the affected ureter and adjoining kidney may be irreversible.
- Removal of the uterus occasionally results in the development of a “stump granuloma”- a localized inflammatory process that develops within the small portion of uterus that is left behind. When this occurs a second “clean up surgery” is typically required.
- We know that the degree of post-operative patient discomfort correlates with the degree of surgical trauma. No question, of the two surgical options the OVH creates more trauma.

European veterinarians have been performing OVE's rather than OVH's for years. In fact, the bulk of the research supporting the benefits of leaving the uterus behind has been conducted in Europe. Slowly, veterinarians in the United States are catching on, and some veterinary schools are now preferentially teaching OVE rather than OVH techniques to their students. What should you do if you are planning to have your dog spayed? Talk with your veterinarian about this article and provide a copy for him or her to read. Perhaps OVE surgery is already their first choice. If not, perhaps your vet will be willing to take a fresh look at performing this old fashioned surgery.

Wishing you many blessings for the new year,

Nancy Kay, DVM

**Diplomate, American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine**

**Recipient, American Animal Hospital Association 2009 Animal Welfare and Humane Ethics Award**

**Recipient, 2009 Dog Writers Association of America Award for Best Blog**

**Recipient, 2009 Eukanuba Canine Health Award**

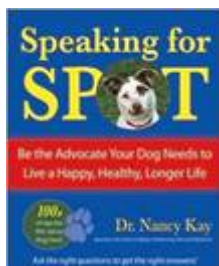
**Author of *Speaking for Spot: Be the Advocate Your Dog Needs to Live a Happy, Healthy, Longer Life***

Website: <http://www.speakingforspot.com>

Spot's Blog: <http://www.speakingforspot.com/blog>

Email: [dr.kay@speakingforspot.com](mailto:dr.kay@speakingforspot.com)

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/speakingforspot>

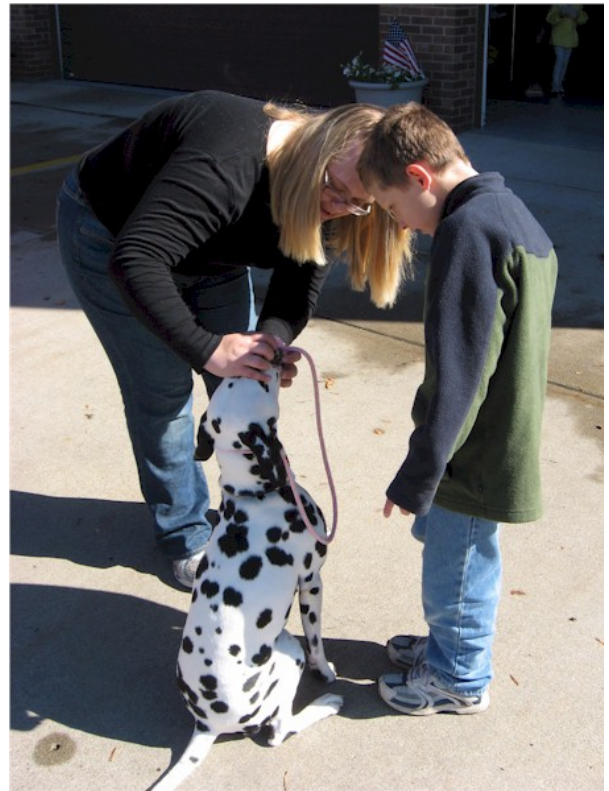


**This article was printed with permission from the author.**

# Fridley Fire Department Open House

Saturday, October 2, 2010

All Photos © 2010 B. Loader



Thanks to Colleen Christianson with Stella, Becky Loader & Michael Ritchie with Abbey and Stephanie Zambrano and her mom Carol with Nena for representing our club at this yearly event.



# Meet The Breed

## Central Iowa Kennel, Des Moines, IA

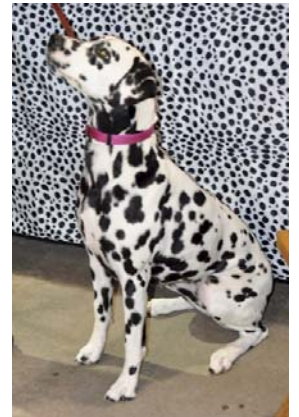
January 22, 2011

All Photos © 2011 C. Bryant

Our club was able to participate in a meet the breed event at the Des Moines show. Thanks to the following for participating on such a cold January morning: Rosie Branaman, Cheryl Bryant, Beth Haley, Mark Leamen and Steve Whittlesey.



Ella - CH RedCoach Tapestry Promise Kept, Winslow - Choco Chip Take It Easy, Gretchen - Choco Chip Ravin Redneck Woman and Jeep - Choco Chip & Bay Colony's Off the Beaten Path.



# Demystifying Rear Limb Weakness

e-Newsletter • Vol. 2, Issue 1 • January 2011 • [scoutshouse.com](http://scoutshouse.com)

Reprinted with permission from Scout's House.



I'd always been curious why so many pets, dogs especially get weak rear legs as they age—and sometimes even before they're old. What causes it? Is it an inevitable result of old age? Over the years, we've treated many pets with rear limb weakness (RLW), also called hind end weakness, at Scout's House, and I've learned that any number of disparate medical issues—from diabetes and [laryngeal paralysis](#) to bacterial infections and disk disease—may be to blame. But just how your veterinarian determines the cause of your pet's rear limb weakness is truly a process worthy of Sherlock Holmes.

## START WITH THE BASICS

The first clues are found at the initial appointment, where your veterinarian gathers information about your pet, including history and signalment (age, sex, breed, and so on) to narrow down the possibilities of what is—and what isn't—causing the problem. It's hard to believe that something as simple as breed could tip off your veterinarian to the cause of your pet's weakness, but in fact certain breeds are predisposed to certain illnesses and conditions; [Boxers](#), for example, are prone to [degenerative myelopathy](#) (DM), while Dachshunds often suffer from [intervertebral disk disease](#) (IVDD). Both diseases can cause rear limb weakness.

And while your veterinarian may be familiar with your pet's medical history, she might not be familiar with some of your pet's other histories, such as travel and behavioral, so be sure to mention those as well. If you and your pet recently traveled to an area where [Lyme disease](#) is prevalent, for example, your veterinarian will know to look for tick-borne disease as the culprit.

## THEN GET PHYSICAL

Next comes the physical exam. By listening to and touching your pet, your veterinarian can learn many things: maybe she detects an abnormal heart rate or rhythm, for instance, or a heart murmur or cough. These symptoms may indicate the RLW is due to cardiac issues, high blood pressure, heartworm disease, or even pneumonia. Or maybe your veterinarian sees signs of pain in your pet when she moves his knee (or stifle) around, indicating a possible [ligament tear](#).

At some point, your veterinarian will also probably do a neurologic exam on your dog or cat. Don't be surprised, for instance, if she turns your pet's rear foot over so that the top of the foot is on the ground; although it looks strange, she's actually checking your pet's proprioception, or awareness of where her limbs are. Dogs with impaired proprioception may be slow to correct the upside-down foot—or fail to correct it at all—in which case your veterinarian knows to consider neurological abnormalities as the possible cause of the muscular weakness.

A complete neurological workup, including imaging, muscle biopsy, cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) evaluation, or electromyography, may be called for to help your veterinarian get closer to a diagnosis. Specifically, it may pinpoint the origin of the problem, such as in the brain (eg, epilepsy, [vestibular disease](#), drug effects, or a lesion) or spinal cord (eg, [Wobblers](#), DM, or cauda equina syndrome), or somewhere in the peripheral nervous system, whether neuromuscular (eg, feline leukemia virus, myasthenia gravis, or systemic lupus) or polyneuropathy (eg, endocrine disease, [diabetes](#), or botulism).

## TESTING, TESTING

Finally, your veterinarian also will want to run some blood work and do a urinalysis on your pet. While it may seem strange to do these tests on a pet with weak rear legs, in fact, blood tests and a urinalysis can help veterinarians rule in—or rule out—many possible causes of muscular weakness, including metabolic disturbances, such as organ dysfunction, anemia, or [malnutrition](#), as well as electrolyte abnormalities, including increased or decreased levels of sodium, potassium, calcium, magnesium, or phosphorous in the blood. Each abnormal level of these vital electrolytes can be a clue to the possible culprit, whether it be a urinary tract obstruction or the ingestion of antifreeze.

*Cont. on page 7*

Cont. from page 6

## HELP FOR YOUR PET

Together, these efforts will yield important clues to the cause of your pet's rear limb weakness. And if your veterinarian is able to pin down the culprit, you may be able to mitigate or even resolve the problem with interventions such as surgery, medication, or [rehab therapy](#) and [acupuncture](#). At Scout's House, we've had remarkable success helping old dogs strengthen their weak rear legs, so don't give up on your pet just because he's old. Work with your veterinarian to find the cause of your pet's rear limb weakness. You—and your pet—will be glad you did.

### Visit Scout's House:

Website, Podcasts, Blog: <http://www.scoutshouse.com>  
Store: <http://www.scoutshouse.com/store>  
Face Book: <http://facebook.com/scoutshouse>  
Twitter: <http://twitter.com/scoutshouse>  
Email: [info@scoutshouse.com](mailto:info@scoutshouse.com)



## It's Official

**The Chicagoland Dalmatian Club Specialty  
show is now part of a 4 show Cluster!**

4 shows - 3 days

Friday June 10, 2011 Chicagoland Dalmatian Specialty Show  
Conformation Judge: Bill Sahloff, Sweeps: Judy Cooper

Saturday June 11, 2011 Wheaton K C  
Judge: Chuck Winslow

Saturday June 11, 2011 Chicagoland Dalmatian club

Sunday June 12, 2011 Wheaton K C  
Judge: David J. Kirkland

More details to come!

Contact Kris Carlsson for additional information at: [misscutter@aol.com](mailto:misscutter@aol.com)

# Brag



© 2010 Randy Roberts

## 2010 AKC Agility Invitational

“Hope” – Ch. South St’s Hope N Inspiration RN MX MXJ XF owned by Karen Moore - (4<sup>th</sup> place Non-Sporting dog award)

“Phoenix” – MACH Anticipation’s Up in Smoke CDX RA OF owned by Marc Ogle

“Ella” – Easy To Spot Oh My Heavens MX MXJ owned by Julie Sandoval, handled by Daneen Fox

## “Kiki” - Ch. South Street Bayside Mai Kiki and Vicki Swensen

Kiki earned two legs toward her Novice Rally title

Rally Trial Qualifying Score, Council Bluffs Kennel Club, Lincoln, NE, 11/20/10 and 11/21/10.

# Club News

Colleen received this note from the St. Paul Fire Department. Our club helped them celebrate the opening of their new headquarters. Photos were in the last newsletter.

Colleen - Thank you  
 & FRIENDS  
 for the beautiful dalmatians!  
 They added a lot to the  
 huge success of our Grand  
 Opening celebration.

*Atten Zecard*

P.S. - What a great club  
 you have!



The Saint Paul Fire Department wishes to wholeheartedly THANK YOU for your contribution to the highly successful commissioning of our new Fire Station No. 1 and the grand opening celebration of our new headquarters, "The William and Alfred Godette Memorial Building."

Thanks to you, we were able to pay an inspiring tribute to a wonderful new building in an outstanding neighborhood of the City of Saint Paul, "America's Most Livable City."

*Fire Chief Timothy M. Butler*

Saint Paul Fire Department



© 2010 D. West

Dalmatian Super Hero  
 Rachel and Rita

## New Address:

Karen Moore  
 7808 Goodman Cir  
 Urbandale, IA 50322



© 2010 R. Branaman  
 Winslow's first Christmas



© 2010 R. Branaman  
 Christmas at Rosie's

# Membership Application Greater Twin Cities Dalmatian Club

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ Occupation \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

Name and AKC number (if registered) of at least one Dalmatian Owned \_\_\_\_\_

Are you a member of any other dog clubs? **Yes / No.** If yes, please list \_\_\_\_\_

Are you willing to work as a member of the club for advancement of the Dalmatian, for sportsmanship and for the interest of the club? **Yes / No.**

I the undersigned, hereby apply for membership in the Greater Twin Cities Dalmatian Club. I certify that I am the required age of 18 or older and am currently in good standing with the American Kennel Club. I hereby agree to abide by the constitution and by-laws of the Greater Twin Cities Dalmatian Club and by the rules and regulations of the club and of the American Kennel Club.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Proposed by \_\_\_\_\_ 2<sup>nd</sup> by \_\_\_\_\_  
Club Member Club Member

Fee for membership is \$15.00 per year. Membership includes the newsletter, which gives notice of club activities.

**Send applications to Lorry Falk, Secretary, 5100 Circle Down, Golden Valley, MN 55416**

Date Received \_\_\_\_\_ 1<sup>st</sup> Reading \_\_\_\_\_

Voted on \_\_\_\_\_

Remarks \_\_\_\_\_

## Greater Twin Cities Dalmatian Club Board:

President	Rick Miller	507-252-1107	<a href="mailto:Avalondalmatian@gmail.com">Avalondalmatian@gmail.com</a>
Vice President	Dawn West	651-459-6900	<a href="mailto:Dawnmwest@comcast.net">Dawnmwest@comcast.net</a>
Secretary	Lorry Falk	763-593-5408	<a href="mailto:lfalk@quixnet.net">lfalk@quixnet.net</a>
Treasurer	Tom Demma	651-459-6900	<a href="mailto:Tommyjd@comcast.net">Tommyjd@comcast.net</a>
Board Members:	Cheryl Bryant	319-895-4057	<a href="mailto:tapestrydals@hughes.net">tapestrydals@hughes.net</a>
	Jessica MacMillan	651-233-4417	<a href="mailto:spotted101@hotmail.com">spotted101@hotmail.com</a>
	Becky Loader	612-824-7276	<a href="mailto:mrloader915@yahoo.com">mrloader915@yahoo.com</a>

## Canine Health Registries

### [Canine Health Information Center \(CHIC\)](#)

CHIC is a centralized canine health database for



animals, jointly sponsored by the AKC CHF and the OFA, that includes a list of health screenings responsible breeders should incorporate into their breeding program and is a DNA repository for future research.

- [Participating Breeds and Approved Breed Specific Test Protocols](#)
- [CHIC DNA Repository](#) (Independent of AKC's DNA Requirements)

### [Orthopedic Foundation for Animals \(OFA\)](#)

OFA collates and funds information concerning



orthopedic and genetic diseases of animals, including advising and establishing control programs to lower the incidence of orthopedic and genetic diseases.

- [Canine Health Research Projects](#)
- [Find a Health Clinic in Your Area](#)

### [Canine Eye Registration Foundation \(CERF\)](#)



CERF maintains the largest registry of dogs examined by American College of Veterinary Ophthalmologists (A.C.V.O.) Diplomats (ACVO members) that are not affected by major heritable eye disease. This data is used to form the CERF data base which is useful in researching trends in eye disease and breed susceptibility.

- [Find a CERF Clinic in Your Area](#)
- [Diagnostic Spotlight](#)



[Find Laboratories that offer Direct DNA Canine Genetic Tests](#)

## MEMBERSHIP

Meetings and programs are always open to members and guests. Membership dues are \$15.00 per person or \$25.00 per family and include a newsletter subscription. Membership follows our fiscal year which is July 1 - June 30.

## ADVERTISING

Members:

1/2 page - \$5.00  
Full page - \$10.00 (blk/wht photo)  
- \$15.00 (color photo)

Non-Members:

1/2 page - \$7.50  
Full page - \$15.00 (blk/wht photo)  
- \$20.00 (color photo)

## EDITOR

Cheryl Bryant

Email: [tapestrydals@hughes.net](mailto:tapestrydals@hughes.net)

