

THE LUCAS POST

PUBLISHED QUARTERLY BY THE LUCAS TERRIER CLUB OF AMERICA

Summer, 2011



LUCAS GROOMING + NEW LITERS + BLESSING THE PUPPIES

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The Lucas Terrier Club of America

To preserve, protect and promote the Lucas Terrier in the United States of America.

on the cover: Riley McMahon, owned by Anne McMahon of Atlanta, Georgia, looks like a happy, content Lucas puppy after digging in his new sandbox. For a terrier puppy, it doesn't get any better than a good dig in the dirt.

The Lucas Post / Summer, 2011 / Richmond, Virginia, USA / lascrouch@yahoo.com

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Newsletter and Logo Design: W. B. Crouch / www.thinkdesigninc.com
Published in limited quantities. July, 2011.

From The President's Desk

Dear Friends

Its been far too long since I have published a newsletter. I had major spinal surgery last year which has kept me away from the computer and many other things that I enjoy. But I'm feeling more like myself every day now and I'm back in the saddle trying to catch up.



Last year was a banner breeding year for the US club with a of record five litters being born. I just finished registering puppy number 42!

That's the good news.

The bad news is that 2011 is going to be a lean puppy year for us. Due to illness, relocation and just bad timing, we are expecting only two litters this year and both of those litters will be mine.

On the bright side, demand for the breed is strong and continues to outpace our puppy supply – a “problem” many clubs would welcome.

In my opinion, the biggest challenge we face down the road is a lack of genetic diversity. Our gene pool is very limited. We are going to have to use our resources very wisely and come up with creative solutions to face this challenge.

Unlike our friends in the UK, breeding out to a US Sealyham or Norfolk is strictly forbidden per AKC rules. Therefore, our future depends on our wise us of our own resources and our improved relationship with the United Kingdom. It is imperative that we all understand this.

On a sober note, I regret to inform you that we have lost several club members: Ed Houghton, husband of Binnie Houghton passed away last year as did Bob Mason, husband of Ann Brooke Mason. And just as I was going to press I learned that both Beth and Eddie Danforth passed away. All will be very much missed.

Although I never had the pleasure of meeting Ed Houghton or the Danforth's, Bob Mason was a good friend and mentor of mine. When I sent out the first club email “feeler” in 2006, Bob was the first person to reply and encouraged me to start the Lucas club here in the U.S. His beloved dog Ollie, was father of my first litter of puppies. This newsletter is a tribute to Bob and his enthusiasm and commitment to the breed. I will miss him dearly.

Until next time,
Laurie

Mrs. Maggie Cooper, shown second row far left, surrounded by her daughters and granddaughters: Lexi, Isabella, Monticella, Miss Bailey, Bonnie Blue Belle and Jacqueline Suzette.





Health Notes

Leptospirosis (Lepto) And Why You Must Make Sure Your Dog Is Vaccinated Against It

Overall, we are blessed that the Lucas continues to be a healthy breed as compared to many other dog breeds out there.

However, that does not mean that individual dogs never get sick. Just like people they need proper nutrition and preventative medical care. But sometimes, in spite of the best of care, they get sick.

This year a couple of things have cropped up. One in particular was “preventable” and the owner of that Lucas would like other owners to learn from their painful experience.

For the Manske family, the whole journey started about a year ago. Juju, their beloved Lucas Terrier was losing weight, and “snoring” at night. They promptly took her to the vet and discovered she had both pneumonia and leptospirosis.

Leptospirosis is a very serious, preventable disease caused by spiral shaped bacteria called leptospire. The bacteria are spread through the urine of infected animals, which can get into water or soil and can survive there for weeks to months. Dave Manske commented that the vet’s conclusion was that Juju contracted Lepto from swampy water or rodent droppings near their home. “Juju lives up to her breeding - she is a great “mouser” and snoots out voles, mice and rabbits all year long,” Dave says. This disease can be serious - sometimes fatal for both humans and animals. But a \$15 dollar vaccine can protect your dog from getting leptospirosis.

Depending on where you live and/or who your vet is, Leptospirosis may not be considered a “core” vaccine like rabies. While Juju had been vaccinated for Lepto when living in Wisconsin where the Manske’s live now in Minnesota, the vaccine is not routinely given. This proved to be very unfortunate for Juju.



Juju, recuperating at home, curled up in a favorite chair.

As the month’s progressed, Juju’s renal tests declined and she got very, very sick. She was in and out of the vet’s office, and on and off IVs and various antibiotics. About every other week the vet was preparing the Manske family to put Juju down. Then out of the blue, Juju would rally briefly before slipping backwards again. It was both an emotionally and financially draining time for the entire Manske family as the ordeal went on for more than 6 months.

Finally, at about the 8th month mark Juju, turned a corner and it looked as if she was going to survive her bout with leptospirosis and the damage that it did to her kidneys.

As of January 7, 2011 Juju’s renal numbers are looking good. But the vet finally admitted to Dave Manske that there were a couple of times that she seriously doubted whether Juju would make it. Now, the vet is very impressed with the tough (otherwise unknown) Lucas Terrier!

The moral of the story...make sure that your dog is protected for Leptospirosis (Lepto) when you take him or her in for her yearly exam and shots. If you live in an area where it is not routinely given -- ask for it --- it can be a matter of life death.

How to get your LUCAS to look like a Lucas

A Lucas Terrier is groomed exactly as a Sealyham with the exception of a shorter fall (bangs) allowing our breed to see clearly. A Lucas should not look like a shaved Poodle or Schnauzer.

The preferred grooming method for our breed is the hand stripping of its coat. Harsh coated terriers like Lucas Terriers have double coats. Each hair follicle supports a single hard outer hair and several soft finer hairs that form the supportive undercoat. The characteristic rich color and hard texture is formed by the outer hairs. As these hairs grow out and become old, they become thin, soft and faded at the roots. More of the softer hairs push their way out of the hair follicle. The purpose of hand stripping is to remove the old faded hairs so that new growth can occur, and to muck out excess fuzzy undergrowth that may be jamming the hair follicle.

When the coat is not refreshed by stripping out the old, several things will happen: The coat can lose color and become faded, the ratio of fuzzy stuff to hard hair can be altered so that texture is lost, and the hair follicles can become plugged up with fine hairs and oily sebum. This can even lead to skin problems, such as the pimples or “acne” that is sometimes found on Miniature Schnauzers. If the hair is clipped or cut rather than pulled out, the growth of harsh new coat is inhibited, and the entire coat will become faded and soft. In some breeds, such as ours, the once black jacket of a black and tan dog becomes grizzled colored or grayish – the tan leg furnishings can become champaign or straw colored. In short they sort of bleach out.

You can tell when your dog is ready for stripping because its jacket becomes quite long and if you lift a separate a section its coat, you will show how faded its roots are. In fact, all the color is on the outer inch and a half of the hairs.

Hand stripping requires considerably more time than grooming with clippers. This means it will cost a lot more to have it done professionally. This is also a reason that many professional groomers decline to offer the service. But it is a skill you can learn to do on your own with patience and practice.



A well-groomed Lucas is a beautiful sight to behold as the photo of Frost's Tippy Toes above is a testament to.

Since Lucas terriers are not shown in the US, most owners opt to forgo the time and expensive of hand stripping and send their dogs to be clipped a couple of times each year with nice results. **The key is having your groomer follow the same lines as a dog that is hand stripped so that the finished look is the same.** Using the pictures above of Tippy Toes above as a guide, you can get your clipped Lucas to still look like a Lucas as the photo's of Lynette Langford's two gorgeous champion dog's, Suzi and Luca (shown below), taken last fall at the UK show, attest to. Whether you strip or clip– take pride in your Lucas and make certain your lucas looks like a Lucas.

Happy Grooming.



Lynette Langford's champion Lucas Terriers Suzi and Luca look dashing in their properly clipped coats.

Blessing The Puppies

by Laurie Crouch



Dr. Robert Friend holding Daisy and Rosie in the All Saints Chapel

I try to be the best breeder I can be. I work hard at it and I'm constantly researching ways that I can help my puppies become all that they can be.

But the one thing that I do that I am most proud of and think makes the greatest difference to my puppies and the joy they bring to their new families is having them blessed by an Episcopal priest before they leave me and start on their new lives.

The sidebar is the blessing offered by Dr. Robert Friend, head rector of All Saints Episcopal Church in Richmond, Virginia on September 22, 2010 to Crouch's Daisy and Rosie, in preparation for them leaving my family and journeying to their new family, John, Meta and Meredith Braymer of Richmond, Virginia.

Dr. Friend's Pet Blessing:

Most high, omnipotent, good Lord, who did wonderfully create the earth, the sea, the sky, and all the creatures, which inhabit them, we give you hearty thanks for all you're your goodness and loving kindness. And most especially we thank you for the gift of animals; for all creatures, great and small; for the furry, the feathered, the scaly, the smooth and the stuffed. Give us, we pray, that due sense of reverence and respect for all your creatures that comes from the knowledge that all things are yours and that you are known in and by then. May our love for these pets be a contestant reminder of your love for us, and may we care for them with kindness and gentleness as you care for us.

Dearest God, Heavenly Father

Maker of all living creatures

We ask you to bless Daisy and Rosie,

Who bring so much joy into our lives

And into the lives of their new families that they are about to travel to.

By the power of your love

Enable Daisy and Rosie to live according to your plan.

May we praise you for all your beauty in creation!

Who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,

Blessed are you, God, in all your creatures!

Amen.

PupCakes

Litters Born in 2010

Mums & Sires	State	Date	Breeder(s)	Pups Born
Zoe & Lucas	Texas	April 30	Linda Finger & Carolyn Farb	Finger & Farb's Jacques Tissot and Maxillian
Lexi & Sir Archie	California	May 6	Susan Hall	Hall's Miss Bailey
Lily & Gibbs	Virginia	May 19	Laurie Crouch	Crouch's Ben, Jack & Will
Maggie & Gibbs	Virginia	July 22	Laurie Crouch	Crouch's Daisy & Rosie
Bella & Rhett Butler	California	August 19	Michelle Rondone & Diana Figueroa	Rondone & Diana Figueroa's Bonnie Blue Belle, Scout, Amber, Maud, Lucy, Rosie and Jacqueline Suzette

Planned Litters for 2011

Mums & Sires	State	Expected Date	Breeder
Lily & Cooper	Virginia	Sept. 2011	Laurie Crouch
Maggie & Rhett Butler	Virginia	TBD	Laurie Crouch

Lucas Losses & Condolences

To Felice Menna on the passing of Otis.

To Binnie Houghton on the passing of her beloved FeeFee.

To Marie & Peter Boisvert on the passing of Oliver due to complications of diabetes.

To The Crouch family on the passing of Special Agent Gibbs.

To Ann Blyde on the passing of Wicka.

Health Notes

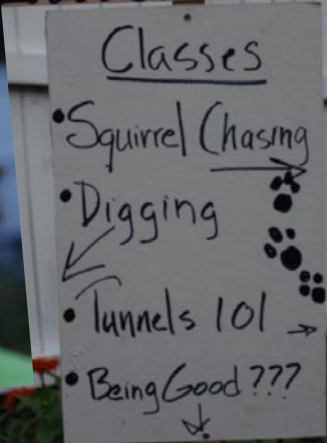
Obesity is on the rise both in the human world and the canine world. It is very easy for Lucas Terriers to gain excess weight leading to all sorts of potential health risks and including early death. Please make sure your Lucas is not over weight and if he or she is – work with your vet on a sensible plan to him slim down. Denial can be deadly. If you can't feel your dog's ribs when you put your hand on their sides take action!

Dues

It is now time to pay your club dues for 2011. Our coffers are empty!

Please make your check payable for **\$25** to LTCA and mail to:

**LTCA c/o Crouch
100 Adingham Court
Richmond, VA 23229**







*In Loving Memory of
Robert (Bob) Cook Mason*

July 22, 1928 - December 12, 2010