



NOVEMBER 2014 NEWS LETTER

From the Chair: As we near the end of this year we have to deal with certain administrative matters, the first of which is the First Notice of Intention for the AGM.

FIRST NOTICE OF INTENTION TO HOLD THE 4TH AGM OF THE CAPE BULLMASTIFF CLUB

The 4th AGM of the Cape Bullmastiff Club will be held on the 24th January 2015 at the Dutch Reformed Church Somerset West.

Any member who wishes to propose an item for the Agenda should do so in writing and submit it to info@capebullmastiffclub.co.za before the 10th January 2015. The Agenda will be distributed directly after final compilation. Only items on this Agenda will be discussed at the AGM.

As the Committee have a two year mandate there will be no voting this year.

Members are also reminded that 2015 membership fees are due prior to the AGM. The fee of R120 annually stands since the Club's inception and has not been increased. The CBC Bank details are as follows **First National Bank, Strand Branch Code 200612 Account Number 62330734048.**

The Club is very proud of its members from far and near and hope they will all stay with us for another year.



This notification will be posted again in the December News Letter and has been submitted to KUSA for their records

The second administrative point for your attention is the Breed & Discipline Show Points. These should be submitted for final tally as soon as possible. The CBC cannot be held responsible for any mistakes in the final placing if the points are not submitted. Each exhibitor is responsible for their own point sheets. Again these can be submitted to info@capebullmastiffclub.co.za. The Annual awards will be distributed at the AGM on the 24th January 2015. You are invited to be there 😊

The CBC is pleased to announce that Royal Canin will be our sponsor for the CBC Trophy Show on the 1st February 2015 – you are invited to bring your Bullmastiffs and take part ☺

The Case of the Shrinking Canines

By Helene Nietsch

Dogs are carnivores and have teeth that reflect their meat-eating evolutionary history. However, our canine companions have been turned into omnivores, as most dry dog foods contain substantial amounts of plant material. Could this be one reason for the loss in size of the canine teeth? Is it that they just don't need those big punishing canines anymore? I don't just see this in the Bullmastiff, but also in other breeds, sporting breeds that would be hard pressed to even carry around tweety-bird!

Having the right amount of the appropriate teeth in the right places is not all we need to know. One must understand what is correct and why, to fully understand bite faults. A dog's dental structure is a direct inheritance from the wolf, his wild carnivorous ancestor. Dog dentition is also very similar to the wolf's smaller cousin, the coyote. Each jaw has six incisors at the front, followed by two canines, then eight premolars (four to a side). When we come to the molars, the top and bottom jaws differ. The lower jaw has six and the upper only four. A normal dog will have a total of 42 teeth.

All you had to do to know what a particular dinosaur did for a living was look at the teeth. The number, shape, size and position of its teeth will tell a lot about what was on that particular dinosaur's dining room table. If you know what it ate, you can draw some logical conclusions about how it might have behaved. It is impressive to see many terrier breeds with bites and canines a Bullmastiff would envy, but many terriers are also losing size in their canines as well. We know what wolves and coyotes eat. The tools for delivering their fast-food meals are carried in their mouths. They don't have a cat's sharp, retractable claws and inward-turning wrists for grasping its prey. Feet and legs get the wolf or coyote its prey, but serving the prey must be done with the teeth, and each type has a specific purpose.

The canines are most critical to catching and holding prey, lurcher or "poacher." Those familiar with police K9s or Schutzhund breeds know that the preferred grip is a "full mouth bite." The dog grasps the suspect's arm or leg deep into its mouth, between its molars and premolars and behind the canines (which should hold its catch in place). The incisors, located at the front of the mouth, are for delicate work, nibbling the last bits of meat off. Molars are flat for grinding plant matter. Food needs to be chewed a little to start the digestive process.

All these specialized teeth are not independent and are inherited separately along with the occlusion. Their position in the jaw is determined by their function and they require a properly formed skull and lower jaw to function efficiently. But why has the Bullmastiff lost size and length in their canines and the wide underjaw? Is it genetic? Has there been a popular stud dog influencing this anomaly? The muzzle must be long enough and broad enough to accommodate the teeth in their proper locations. The Bullmastiff must have sufficient bite strength and big tall canines to hold onto whatever it has grabbed, be it prey or perpetrator. Jaw strength comes not only from the muscles, but the shape of the skull.

The more we have altered skull and jaw shape from the norm, the less efficient the mouth has become and perhaps one reason for a narrow underjaw and the loss in size of the canines. Jaws that are so short make it impossible for all the teeth to assume normal size and position. Undershot bites that prevent proper occlusion of the canines and incisors are neither efficient nor functional, despite breed opinion justifying those abnormalities where they are considered acceptable with Mastiff and Bulldog in the ancestry. The short muzzle and the undershot bite of a Bullmastiff, while quite acceptable in its standard, would be deemed a severe fault in other normal-skulled breeds. Grossly undershot, wry bites, narrow underjaws, small canines, are all serious deviations from the standard which simply calls for "Bite: Preferably level or slightly undershot. Canine teeth large and set wide apart."

Whether it is genetic, all the vaccines and chemical our dogs receive and ingest, or simply a lack of use, the Bullmastiff is losing that beautiful mouth with big tall canines, wide underjaw and straight teeth. I for one miss seeing that in the show ring.

THE CAPE BULLMASTIFF CLUB

DOG OF THE YEAR - 2014



THE CBC SALUTES AMIGO – ‘LORD OF THE RINGS’

CH & INT CH DON AMIGO PASCO OF BEAUTYBULL

DOB: 04-04-2007

Breeder A Van Lith - owner Juhon Bullmastiffs

Love him or not – you cannot ignore him. He has shone in the Breed Show Ring since his arrival here in 2007 from the Netherlands and he has set records for our youngsters to challenge in the future. Here are some of the highlights of his home life and show career:



Father and sons in the home



Goofing in the garden with his human mom and best buddy Franny



Chilling out



Working the rings

Reserve Best Veteran in Show

Reserve Best in Speciality Show



Best of the Best - Top 6

Best Puppy, RBoB, Best Puppy in Working Group



Best Puppy Christmas Charity Show



Stud of the Year/s 2012, 2013, 2014 and KUSA National Bullmastiff 2012 / 2014

Veteran in retirement - 2015 and onwards

41 BOB, Multiple RBOB, 15 CC's, 3x Best in WG placing, Multiple WG Placing, Multiple Best Veteran in Breed/ Group & Show placing, Animal talk Top Dog Ratings 2012 #57

“Do not follow where the path may lead. Go instead where there is no path and leave a trail”



Kennel Management: continued

Problems during labour and post partum problems with the Dam

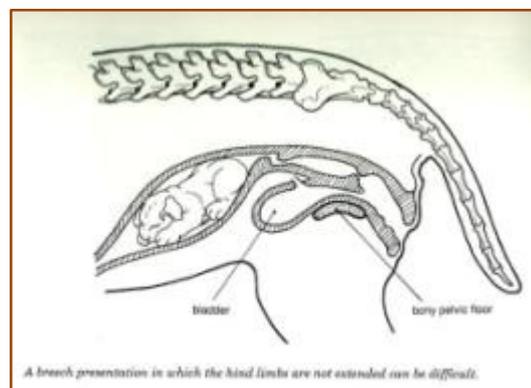
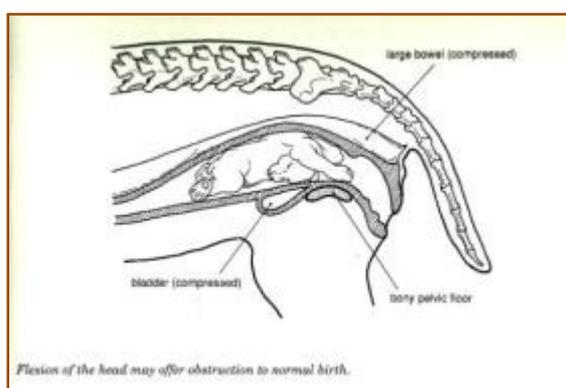
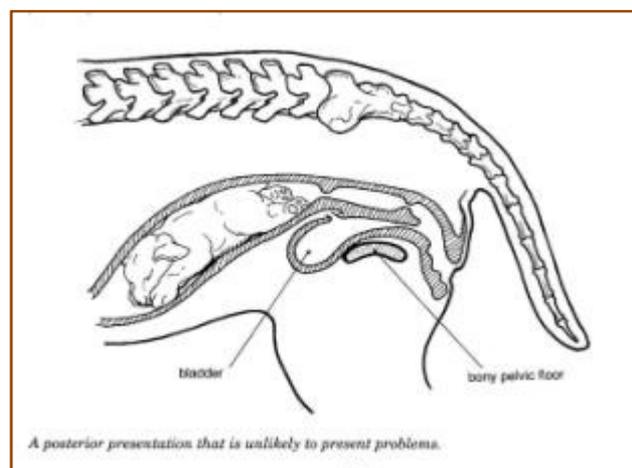
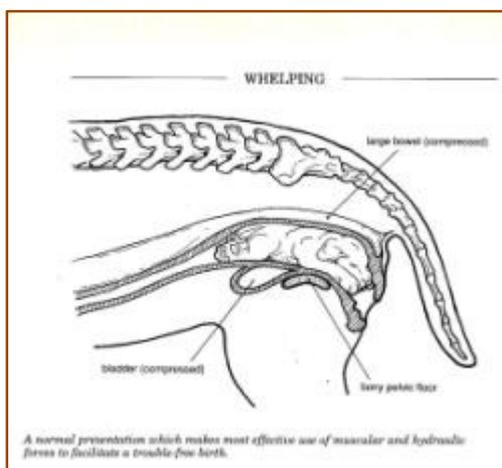
As mentioned previously it is important that your Veterinarian is informed that the bitch is in labour, for if matters go wrong he/she is the one who will be called to sort out the crisis. Even if the entire

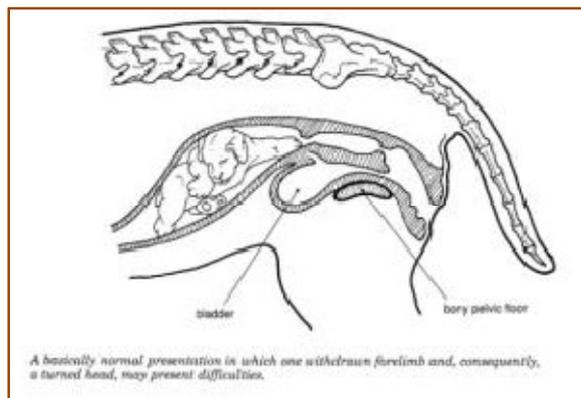
pregnancy has been trouble free and the bitch is in good health, matters can still go wrong in labour. Here are some of the more serious and or common problems that can occur.

The pelvic girdle of an adult Bullmastiff bitch is designed to allow for the passage of a normal sized puppy whether it is breech or normal vertex presentation. Any history of trauma to this structure resulting in a fracture could be an indication for an elective Caesarean Section as the bones of the pelvis may not have healed in alignment making a normal delivery impossible. This is a pre-emptive action and should be part of the routine anti-natal care between the breeder and the Veterinarian. There could, of course, be an unknown narrowing in the pelvis that may only become obvious when labour proceeds but no puppies are forthcoming (prolonged labour). In such a case an emergency C/S should be performed.

The uterus is the other vital anatomical structure involved in the birthing process and should there be a rupture, tear or torsion, not only is the bitch's life in grave danger but the lives of the pups as well. The bitch will be critically ill and her vital signs erratic and unless attended to immediately both dam and pups will die.

Uterine inertia, that is failure of the uterus to contract and the labour to proceed with the delivery of the whelps, is yet another veterinary emergency. The reasons for inertia include low calcium blood levels (hypocalcaemia), low blood sugar levels (hypoglycaemia) and prolonged labour leading to exhaustion of the bitch. There could also be a dead puppy in the birth canal. Dead whelps do not stimulate the uterus to contract.





All diagrams' taken

from DOG BREEDING by Frank Jackson – with thanks and acknowledgement.

An unusually large or badly deformed puppy will not be able to pass through the birth canal. The brachycephalic breeds or modified brachycephalic breeds, of which the Bullmastiff is one, are also known to have problems with heads that may be too big to pass through the birth canal. Again a Caesarean Section is the only answer. Breeders must, however, remember that natural birth and

bonding is of cardinal importance to the long term welfare of the breed.

The vaginal discharges in labour can vary. As mentioned previously a mucous discharge is normal as is the expulsion of clear amniotic fluid if the membranes rupture just prior to the arrival of a whelp. A green discharge can indicate foetal distress and comes from the detachment of the placenta. A black discharge is from the meconium or first stool of the puppy being forced out of the puppy and can be present with a breech presentation. If these pups are to survive, they must be delivered quickly. A bright red discharge indicates haemorrhaging. Any infections will produce a yellow purulent discharge.

Problems may be expected post partum if the bitch has a poor health record, but they can also occur totally unexpected. As far as the bitch is concerned the following problems need immediate attention:

Any vaginal discharge that is excessive, bright red, foul smelling or continues for more than three weeks without abating. If the reason for the discharge is retained placental material or from an infection in the uterus (metritis) the bitch will also probably have a reduced appetite, be listless and lethargic and running a temperature. Often the puppies will also display signs of not feeling well.

Postpartum haemorrhage is diagnosed from an excessive red bloody discharge and with this, pale gums, which is from the accompanying anaemia. These may be the only signs. These conditions need immediate veterinary attention. Further breeding may not be possible, as the bitch may have to be spayed to contain the problem.

A discharge continuing for longer than three weeks may be indicative of what is known as Sub involution of the Placental Sites (SIPS). This is a rather uncommon problem and will occur in young

bitches with their first litters. The bitch will be in good health otherwise, as will be her puppies. Treatment is quick and easy and the prognosis is good.

Inappropriate maternal aggression in the South African Bullmastiff is a known but uncommon problem and occurs when the bitch attacks her own offspring for no apparent reason. The prognosis is poor. The puppies should be removed immediately and the bitch should not be used for further breeding.

Mastitis or infection of the mammary glands is usually due to bacteria entering the nipple and ascending to the milk glands. The bitch can be very ill and have a temperature and may refuse to eat or nurse her young. If caught early and treated successfully the pups need not be removed from the dam. If not treated quickly the pups may have to be removed for a short time and given supplementary feeding while the infection is being treated. Absolute cleanliness in the whelping box plays an essential part in the prevention of mastitis. Occasionally the breeder may have to manually extract the milk if the glands are badly engorged.

Hypocalcaemia, which is occasionally associated with a poor nutritional state, is due to low calcium levels in the blood and can occur just prior to, during or after labour as the bitch's milk supply is established and maintained. It is a life threatening condition and if not treated immediately the bitch is likely to die. Mild clinical signs show tremors and shaking. These can be followed by seizures. Treatment with oral, intramuscular and / or intravenous calcium supplements may have to be continued until the puppies are weaned.

Bitches who receive calcium supplements prior to labour or birth are more likely to suffer from hypocalcaemia

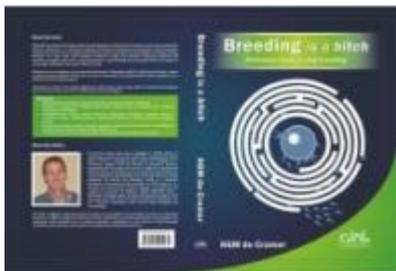
**NB: THESE NOTES ARE GUIDLINES ONLY AND ARE NOT INTENDED TO REPLACE
VETERINARY ADVICE OR CARE : Robertson 2014 all rights reserved**

**IDENTIFY THIS CBC MEMBER AND WIN A YEARS FREE SUBSCRIPTION FOR
2015.**



Submissions to info@capebullmastiffclub.co.za before the end of December 2014 ☺

**ALL MEMBERS ARE INVITED TO SEND IN SUITABLE PHOTOGRAPHS FOR THE
CBC WEB PAGE**



The CBC raffle was won by Monique Hodgkinson with ticket # N5 / 56. "OH.MY.WORD. – That is awesome... Thank you, thank you, thank you!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!" was her response on being informed of her win.

Congratulations and thanks to member Magda LeDoux for donating this wonderful book.

WESTERN CAPE TOP DOG QUALIFER

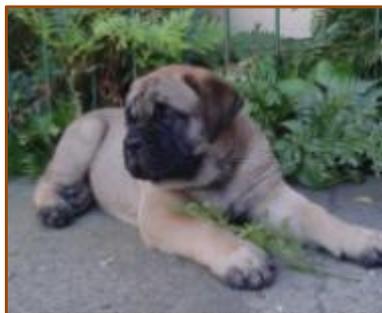
Ch LaGratitude Durango Duke BA owned by Bernhard and Retha Bouwer has qualified for the WC Top Dog event to be held on the 5th December 2014. The CBC and show fraternity wish him all the best 😊



"KEEP CALM AND DON'T FORGET TO BE AWESOME"



NEW KIDS ON THE BLOCK



Zeus Theron



Juno Theron

NEW KIDS LOOKING FOR FOREVER HOMES

Contact Tewie Gouws at tgouws@me.com or 0824901115



NEW MEMBERS

Jaco Burger with his new pup Jimmy and Tinky Viljoen with Jess



The Barnard family with Jors and Raine Carels with Ruby



SPONSORSHIP



Contact Johan at Pets Creations 0793146351 or 0218510362

The information in this magazine is confined to its members. Statements or opinions may be expressed in this communication that is personal to the writers and do not necessarily represent the views of the Club.

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***“DON'T WORRY ABOUT PEOPLE IN YOUR PAST. THERE IS A REASON THEY
DIDN'T MAKE IT TO YOUR FUTURE”***