



Labrador Retriever Kennel Club

Forward

It has been a very busy start to 2016, with all of the summer activities of the LRKC already behind us – the First Open Show, a lovely Fun Day and our AGM on the 5th of March 2016! We are also privileged to welcome some new members to the Club who joined in the last three months. We want to thank each and every club member who promotes the LRKC and our breed and doesn't matter where you are based in the country.

Our events continue unabated with the main event for Autumn, being the Annual Field Trials near Standerton, kicking off on the 22nd of April. Make a trip of it even if you are not entering your dogs in any of the Stakes; spend one or more days watching the dogs at work - it is really exciting to see what these dogs can do!

If you are a new Club member or not really involved yet, we hope that watching our members and their dogs perform in the Show Ring and Field will motivate and encourage you. With this in mind, I also want to remind you of the open invitation to any Club member who wishes to get more information or get involved, to approach the Committee for show, field and obedience training – we can help you get started or refer you to the appropriate trainer.

This edition of the Bulletin includes the results from our First Open Show, a brief synopsis of the AGM and most importantly, the Annual Award winners for 2015 that were announced at the AGM. These top dogs are the window to the standard of Labradors in South Africa and I think we can be extremely proud! Our feature article this quarter is on snakes and snake bites and I am sure you will agree that it is very informative.

Good luck to all who are participating in shows and field trials during Autumn 2016 and please travel safely.

Happy reading!

Genevieve

EVENTS TO DIARISE

- **46th Annual LRKC Field Trials, Val Farms, Standerton District, 22-25 April 2016;**
- **LRKC Second (Winter) Open Show 2016, Saturday 25th of June at Goldfields Show Grounds. Judge Dr Vicki Reid;**
- **Winter Fun Day, Saturday, 23rd of July, Inanda Country Base**
- **WODAC, 15-17th of July at Gallagher Convention Centre, Midrand. Come and visit us at the Gundog Stand in Hall 4**

Membership

A **warm welcome** to the following new members who have joined the Club since the beginning of 2016:

- Drs Jacques and Charlotte Visser from Johannesburg
- Jessica Barclay from Port Elizabeth
- Michael Howe from Port Elizabeth
- Jeandré van Niekerk and Jennifer Ford from Pretoria
- Henry Walters from Port Elizabeth

We are delighted to have you on board!

The best way to introduce yourself, meet fellow Labrador enthusiasts and become part of the LRKC is to attend our events!

LRKC 1st OPEN SHOW (SUMMER OPEN SHOW), 6 February 2016, Goldfields Show Grounds

Our first breed show of the year, the Summer Open Show, was held on a glorious summer's day and was judged by Mrs Lynne Ruddle from Dundee in KZN, a respected Gundog Championship Show judge. Many thanks to all who supported the show - we had a fabulous entry of 43 dogs!

Mrs Ruddle writes "I would like to thank the Club and the Exhibitors for a lovely entry and well run show. I had a wonderful day and thoroughly enjoyed the judging. On the whole there were some really lovely Labradors, showing good quality characteristics typical of the breed. There were some lovely youngsters being shown that will, with time, do well in the show ring and I will eagerly be following their show career. The dogs in general had good angulation in the fore and rear, and lovely strong heads and depth of body which is imperative in a Gundog breed that is still frequently used in the field. On the negative side, a few dogs were overweight and I know that, like Cockers, food is one of the most important things in their lives! Most of the dogs had good dentition with lovely scissor bites, however a few had very tight scissor bites, bordering on level bites and one needs to ensure that it is corrected in the breeding lines through selective breeding."

Best Junior in Show:

Conkasha V For Victory of Dimeche (Cyrus) owned by Chester Smart and bred by Sharron Brown





Best Senior and Best in Show:

Craignair Picture Perfect (Phoebe) owned and bred by Jane Pott

Main Results (for full results please refer to website)

RESULTS: LRKC NON-CHAMPIONSHIP SHOW, 6 FEBRUARY 2016		
JUDGE: MRS LYNNE RUDDLE		
<u>PLACING</u>	<u>DOG'S NAME</u>	<u>OWNER</u>
Best Baby Puppy	Ablesing Tornado Warning	J Botha
Res Baby Puppy	Ablesing Bring Die Storm	J Botha
Best Junior Dog	Conkasha V For Victory of Dimeche	CE Smart
Res Junior Dog	Ablesing Shakima Gold at Jesandow	M Compton
Best Junior Bitch	Brumoso Milica Diante of Amadeuze	A van Heerden
Res Junior Bitch	Craignair Beyond Th Limit	J Pott
BEST PUPPY IN SHOW	Rowania Hey Big Spender of Valhallen	V Lodge Lowe
Res Best Puppy in Show	Craignair Beyond Th Limit	J Pott
BEST JUNIOR IN SHOW	Conkasha V For Victory of Dimeche	CE Smart
Res Best Junior in Show	Brumoso Milica Diante of Amadeuze	A van Heerden
Best Senior Dog	Casimiro Sykstus of Rowania	T Rowan
Res Senior Dog	Ch Craignair Switch Blade	D Malcolm
Best Senior Bitch	Craignair Picture Perfect	J Pott
Res Senior Bitch	Ch Craignair Heart Breaker	J Pott
SA Bred Challenge	Ch Ailsacraig White Shuma	B Dumbrill
Veteran Challenge	Ch Ailsacraig Crystal Topaz	B Dumbrill
BEST SENIOR IN SHOW	Craignair Picture Perfect	J Pott
Res Best Senior in Show	Casimiro Sykstus of Rowania	T Rowan
BEST IN SHOW	Craignair Picture Perfect	J Pott
Res Best in Show	Casimiro Sykstus of Rowania	T Rowan
Best Head	Casimiro Sykstus of Rowania	T Rowan
Best Coat	Ch Ailsacraig White Shuma	B Dumbrill
Best Feet	Conkasha Maddison	C E Smart
Best Tail	Night Fury at Kloofzicht	M van Tonder

Congratulations to all our winners!

Please find brief critique from Mrs Ruddle on each of the main class winners below.

Best Baby Puppy: No 22 Ableasing Tornado Warning - A solid puppy, with a good topline, good rear angulation, lovely shoulder.

Best Minor Puppy Dog: No 32 Sea-Birds Oops I Did It Again at Amadeuze - Mature puppy, lovely topline, good coat condition, nice tail set.

Best Minor Puppy Bitch: No 6 Rowania For Joy - Good solid body and well-muscled hindquarters, still so young!

Best Puppy Dog: No 26 Rowania Hey Big Spender of Valhallen - Nice chocolate puppy, short coupled, lovely head, shoulder and rear action.

Best Puppy Bitch: No 17 Caignair Beyond Th Limit - Nice head, lovely angulated shoulder with a good depth of body, lovely muscled hindquarters.

Best Junior Dog: No 3 Conkasha V For Victory of Dimeche - Nice, big, young dog with a lovely strong head, short coupled with a good tail placement and well used tail! Lovely turn of stifle, just needs to mature.

Best Junior Bitch: No 36 Brumoso Milica Diante of Amadeuze - Good square, well-bodied girl with a lovely angulated shoulder. Lovely topline and typical otter tail.

Best Graduate Dog: No 20 Ableasing Shakima Gold of Jesandow - Solid head, good depth of body, well angulated shoulder. Good turn of stifle and covers ground well.

Best Graduate Bitch: No 10 Kloofzicht Midnight Special - Lovely compact bitch with well-laid backed shoulders, nice depth of body, lovely expression and well-muscled thigh.

Best Novice Bitch: No 2 Conkasha Maddison - Nice young bitch but carrying a little weight, square in appearance, lovely shoulder and well-muscled thigh.

Best SA Bred Dog: No 39 Ch Ailsacraig White Shuma - A little heavy, but solid and in proportion, lovely angulated shoulder.

Best SA Bred Bitch: No 14 Ch Caignair Hot Gossip - A lovely solid bitch with a nice head and well laid back shoulders, good topline.

Best Veteran Bitch: No 38 Ch Ailsacraig Crystal Topaz - Sweet natured old lady, square and good body.

Best Open Dog: No 28 Casimiro Sykstus of Rowania - Lovely head and expression and a deep well-muscled chest with a lovely topline and good angulation.

Best Open Bitch: No 43 Caignair Picture Perfect - A good quality yellow bitch with a lovely head, nice and square, well proportioned, nice tail set. Lovely on the move.

Best Champion Dog: No 21 Ch Caignair Switch Blade - Lovely head and very nice angulation, short coupled.

Best Champion Bitch: No 16 Ch Caignair Heart Breaker - Nice square bitch, lovely topline and nicely angulated shoulder.

2016 Annual General Meeting

The Club's 58th AGM was held on the 5th of March at Edgecombe House in Midrand. The Chairman's and Treasurer's reports and the audited financial statements have been loaded on the website. Certain proposed amendments to the Club's constitution were discussed at the meeting and voted upon. A summary of this discussion is contained in the draft minutes which can also be found on the website. We are delighted to announce that at the AGM, Mrs Dale Fabian of Bardale Labradors was elected a Patron of the LRKC and Mrs Jane Pott was once again elected to the position of President of the LRKC. The Meeting also saw the re-election of the following 5 Management Committee members: Renier Jansen van Vuuren, Alan Kloeck, Kevin Pott, Angelique van Rooyen and Mercia van Tonder. Following the resignation of Gerhard van Tonder, we are also pleased to welcome Mrs Thania Rowan as a new Committee Member.

The following table represents a quick reference guide to your Club's **Office Bearers** for 2016:

Mrs Jane Pott jane@tecfinc.co.za	LRKC President and FTLC Representative
Mr Renier Jansen van Vuuren renier@labradors.co.za	Chairman (also contact for Website, Club Publications, Show Training)
Mr Kevin Pott Kevin.pott@yahoo.co.uk	Vice Chairman (Club Assets, Trophies, Field Trial Manager)
Mr Dwayne Malcolm dwayne@tecfinc.co.za	Treasurer
Ms Genevieve Alberts gcullen123@gmail.com	Secretary (Administration & Membership)
Ms Angelique van Rooyen Angelique@eagertrielabs.co.za	Field Trial Secretary

Ms Mercia van Tonder Kloofzichtlabbies@gmail.co.za	
Mr Francois van Rooyen Francois.VanRooyen@WorleyParsons.com	
Mrs Thania Rowan thania@awmining.co.za	
Dr Alan Kloeck Alan.kloeck@merck.com	

Please feel free to get in touch with any one of us. We look forward to hearing from you!

The last item on the AGM agenda, the **Annual Awards**, is always the most exciting, so without further ado here are our fabulous winners for 2015:

The Annual Awards 2015

Victor Ludorum

(Top winning male Labrador Retriever)

Joint Winner: Ch Caignair Desert Flyer of Stagmanskop (right)

Owner: Mrs D Hacking

Points: 112

Joint Winner: Ch Caignair Switch Blade

Owner: Mr D Malcolm

Points: 112



Victrix Ludorum

(Top winning female Labrador Retriever)

Winner:

Ch Ableasing Kiara for Keeps of Mirain

Owner: Mrs S Borralho

Points: 34

Supreme Champion

(Points scored by Labrador Retrievers with the title of Champion)

Winner: Ch Caignair Switch Blade

Owner: Mr D Malcolm

Points: 77



Ch Marsta Secret Duke Award

(Highest placed Labrador Retriever in Animaltalk top 100 ratings – counting Group and BIS placings)

Winner: Ch Caignair Switch Blade

Owner: Mr D Malcolm

Points: 109 (placed 157 on Animaltalk Top 100)

Ch Balrion Lord of the Manor of Breckondale Trophy

(Labrador Retriever Kennel with the highest number of points scored at the LRKC Open and Championship Shows)

Winner: Caignair

Owner: Mrs J Pott

Points: 74

Best Junior Dog

(Awarded to the male Labrador that scored the most points from Minor Puppy, Puppy and Junior Classes)

Winner: Ailsacraig Final Fling

Owner: Ms S Brown

Points: 49



Best Junior Bitch

(Awarded to the female Labrador that scored the most points from Minor Puppy, Puppy and Junior Classes)

Winner: Toptail's Jin Xin Taibi of Berrakaw (Imp Taiwan)

Owner: Mr & Mrs P Nicholson

Points: 45



Best Veteran Dog

(Awarded to the male Labrador that scored the most points from the Veteran Class)

Winner: Ch Kinndell Black Knight NHR FQ

Owner: Mr & Mrs A Thuynsma

Points: 38

Best Veteran Bitch

(Awarded to the female Labrador that scored the most points from the Veteran Class)

Winner: Ch Tapeatom Drama Queen of Craignair

Owner: Mrs J Pott

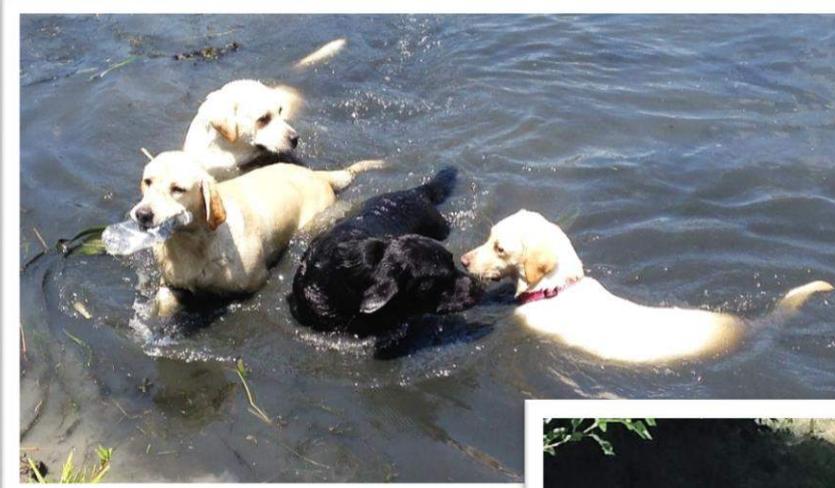
Points: 58



A huge congratulations to the owners and breeders of this year's winners!

LRKC Fun Day

The Management Committee hosted another successful Labrador Retriever Fun Day at Inanda Country Base, Kyalami on the 20th of February. We have come to expect a challenging treasure hunt at the event, once again designed by Jane and Kevin Pott, and participating teams were not disappointed. The hunt required teams to decipher cryptic clues which led them to various parts of the property in search of items that had to be collected. Let's just say that some were better at thinking out the box than others!



As usual the day belonged to the dogs who had a fantastic time swimming and playing on the banks of the dam, while the humans enjoyed a braai under the willow trees.

Thank you to all who attended. We intend hosting another Fun Day in Winter this year so please keep an eye out for email communication in this regard. Help us to make the next event just as successful!

Photos by Vanessa Muller



DOGS AND SNAKES

PREAMBLE

In December 2015, Pierre and Marietjie Nicholson's Labradors, Roebel and Lisa, were bitten by a Puff Adder that was living in thick bush adjacent to their home. Lisa was bitten once in the face and Roebel unfortunately sustained three bites to the face and throat area. Many of us followed the Nicholson's harrowing experience on Facebook, willing these two dogs to survive the attack. Both dogs received swift medical attention and Lisa made a relatively fast recovery. Roebel, however, had a mountain to climb and found himself in ICU at Onderstepoort Hospital. He fought for his life for over a week and thankfully eventually won the battle. Snake bites are a very real risk in South Africa and the more knowledge we are armed with, the better. Marietjie has kindly arranged with a herpetologist and veterinary doctor, Dr Luke Arnot (BVSc, MSc Roodeplaat Dierkliniek), to provide us with some background information on the venomous snakes we should know more about in South Africa, types of venom and the symptoms these induce, steps to reduce the risk of our dogs coming into contact with snakes and what to do if your dog is bitten. Dr Arnot has written a comprehensive and very informative article and we are enormously grateful to him for taking the time to share his insight with the Club and also to Marietjie for facilitating this.

INTRODUCTION

There are 130 snake species in South Africa, of which only 35 have fangs and venom that may cause symptoms. Only 14 species are considered dangerous, with venom capable of killing a person or dog. All snakes fulfil an important function in the environment by eating rodents such as rats that are vermin. Snakes are also an important food source

for other animals further up the food chain such as birds of prey, mongoose etc. It is therefore important not to kill snakes unnecessarily, as the vast majority are harmless and serve a crucial purpose in the environment and food chain.

Snakes are poikilothermic animals, meaning they are most active in the warmer summer months. Therefore they move around mostly from September to April, and generally hibernate in the cooler winter months. As a result of this, snake/human/dog interactions are most common in the warmer summer months.

Snakes are also more active in early Spring, when the males of most species are moving over large distances to locate and mate with females. Snakes are also very active in later summer or Autumn, when they are moving around to locate



suitable hibernating places. Most snake species are more active at night, when they hunt their prey, and will be even more active after rain, especially on warm evenings. All snakes live a solitary life, just pairing up briefly (a few hours) to mate, so finding one snake does not necessarily mean there will be another one close by.

African rock python, non-venomous, but has a row of formidable teeth

Venom is simply a modified type of saliva (a protein) that has evolved to be toxic to other species. Snakes can control the amount of venom they deliver, depending on the size of prey or the threat involved. Thus when a dog sees a snake, they generally harass the snake by barking and trying to bite the snake and the snake interprets this as a life threat. Usually, when a snake bites a dog, it delivers a full bite to try and

neutralize the threat. Generally the larger the individual snake, the more venom it can deliver in a bite.

CLASSIFICATION OF SNAKES

Snake venom can be classified into cytotoxic, neurotoxic and haemotoxic venoms. Most snake species produce a single type of venom, but certain species such as the Mozambique Spitting Cobra and Gaboon Viper produce a combination of venom types.

Cytotoxic species

The cytotoxic venom causes tissue necrosis, swelling and in some cases sloughing of the skin around the bite wounds. Adder species, such as the Puff Adder, are typical examples of cytotoxic venomous snakes. Puff Adders occur throughout South Africa. They are generally a short (up to 1 meter), stoutly built snake with a big and distinct head. The colour patterning of Puff Adders varies across South Africa, depending on habitat. Those specimens found in KZN and the Eastern Cape are black with bright yellow chevrons across the body, while those found in Gauteng and other Highveld areas are a more dull light brown to grey colour.



Brightly coloured Puff Adder from KZN

Puff Adder bites are commonly seen in dogs, as these are ambush predators, often lying up in grass or shrub areas waiting for prey to come past, thus do not move away when danger approaches. Puff Adders rely on their excellent camouflage to avoid detection and are often not seen until stepped on. If a dog comes across a Puff Adder it will likely harass the snake by barking and often trying to bite the snake. As a result, most Puff Adder bites occur around the muzzle, face, fore limbs or shoulders of the dog. The most common clinical signs of a bite are initially localized swelling around the bite area, then proceeding to generalized swelling of the area involved. Due to the fact that Puff Adders have large fangs, the fang puncture

marks can sometimes be found. The swelling will increase for the first 24 hours after which it begins to recede. Luckily dogs have excessive amounts of skin when compared to humans so the bite does not normally result in compartment syndrome (leading to severe tissue damage) as it does in humans.

Neurotoxic venom

Neurotoxic venom is found in all Mamba and all Cobra species. The venom protein attaches to and blocks the receptors at the neuromuscular junctions, thus causing paralysis of the muscles. The muscles that control respiration are very sensitive to the toxin, therefore these neurotoxic bites cause death by failure of the respiratory system. The neurotoxins are fast acting, with clinical signs usually seen within a few minutes. Clinical signs will include muscle weakness, especially in the hind limbs, salivation and shallow rapid respiration. These signs can come on quickly, within a few minutes, to a few hours, depending on where the bite occurred. Due to the fact that Cobras and Mamba have small fangs, bite marks are often non evident. Neurotoxic bites are always an emergency, with the swift administration of antivenom being essential. Generally bite victims will not survive without antivenom.



Snouted Cobra

Haemotoxic venom

Boomslang and Vine snakes are the only two species that produce haemotoxic venom. Haemotoxic venom affects the clotting of blood, leading to generalized haemorrhaging. Luckily haemotoxic bites from these two snake species are very rare, as both these species are arboreal, thus hardly ever coming down to the ground. As a result, the chance of them coming into contact with dogs on the ground is limited. In addition, both these species have small fangs situated far back in the mouth, so these species need to chew on the victim in order to envenomate, thus bites from Boomslang and Vine snakes are uncommon. There is no antivenom that is effective against Vine snakes, however Boomslang bites are treated with a specific monovalent antivenom that is effective against Boomslang bites alone.



Male Boomslang showing the large eye and the fang location set far back in the mouth

Mixed venom types

A few snake species, namely Mozambique Spitting Cobra (all Spitting Cobras) and Gaboon Vipers have venom composed of both neurotoxic and cytotoxic components. Gaboon Vipers have venom that contains all three venom types. Luckily Gaboon Vipers are very rare in South Africa, only occurring in the northern KZN coastal area. Mozambique Spitting Cobras have a wide distribution over most lowveld, bushveld areas, but luckily Spitting Cobra bites respond well to the polyvalent (active against more than one species) antivenom that is available.

However, Spitting Cobra bites often involve varying amounts of skin sloughing around the bite site. This skin sloughing can lead to severe open wounds that may need long treatment periods, even involving skin grafts.

Rinkals, commonly found around Johannesburg, produces neurotoxic and slightly cytotoxic venom

TREATMENT OF SNAKE BITES

Dog owners need to learn to identify the few dangerous snake species that commonly occur within the area where they live. In Pretoria, we see Snouted Cobras, Puff Adders and a few Mozambique Spitting Cobras, in Cape Town, Cape Cobras, Puff Adders and Boomslang are more common, while in the coastal areas of northern KZN, Forest Cobra, Green and Black Mamba and Gaboon Vipers are found.



Luckily, most venomous bites, excluding Boomslang, Vine snakes and Berg Adders all respond well to the polyvalent antivenom. The monovalent antivenom that is produced is only effective against Boomslang venom.

Polyvalent antivenom is a protein and thus needs to be stored at 2-8°C otherwise it will become non effective. Given that antivenom is derived from horses, there is always a risk of a bite victim being treated with antivenom developing anaphylaxis, due to the fact that foreign proteins are being injected into the patient. Although rare, anaphylaxis is a life threatening side effect and it is therefore essential that antivenom is administered by trained medical staff.

A specific volume of antivenom contains a specific amount of antibodies that will neutralize a specific volume of venom. Therefore if the same Cobra bites a 2kg miniature pinscher or a 60kg boerboel, both victims will receive the same quantity of antivenom. In other words, the size of the dog has no bearing on the quantity of antivenom administered.

Antivenom is very expensive and has a limited shelf life (two years if refrigerated). Therefore many vets do not stock it and it is advisable, if you have working dogs or live in an area where snake contact is possible, that you find out the location of the closest vet that does stock antivenom.

WHAT TO DO IF YOUR DOG IS BITTEN

If your dog happens to be bitten by a snake, try and identify the snake without getting bitten yourself. If the snake involved is possibly a species carrying neurotoxic venom, such as most of the Cobras and Mambas, one may see clinical signs developing within a few minutes. Whether you are able to identify the snake or not, the incident should be treated as an emergency and you need to get to the nearest vet that stocks antivenom. The vet will typically put the dog on a drip, administer the required amount of antivenom, often give corticosteroids and closely monitor the dog. In severe cases, the dog may stop breathing (as neurotoxic venoms paralyse the respiratory muscles), requiring assisted breathing until the antivenom takes effect.

If the snake is cytotoxic, such as a Puff Adder, the first signs one will notice will be swelling around the bite wounds. Often the bite is visible with the puncture wounds oozing blood, due to the large size of the fangs. The progression of swelling of the affected site will increase over the first 12-24 hours. These bites may be life threatening if the bite occurs around the throat area as the swelling may impair the airways. Some dogs are bitten on the tongue if they are panting when they attack the snake. In these cases the tongue will swell and block the airway. These cases need polyvalent antivenom as soon as possible to counteract the swelling and they need to be closely monitored for impaired breathing. However, if the bite occurs away from the airways, the swelling may be impressive, but will start to reduce after 24 hours. These dogs may even get away without antivenom being given if the swelling is not in an area that impairs breathing. They need to be placed on intravenous fluids in order to flush the kidneys as acute kidney failure is one of the side effects of cytotoxic snake bites.

Photos: Roebel at the height of the swelling

If your dog is spat in the eye by a Spitting Cobra, check that the dog has not also been bitten. If it has been bitten, get to the vet immediately. If no bites are observed, flush the eyes with copious amounts of clean water. The venom causes severe superficial ulceration of the cornea, which if left untreated can cause severe pain and damages the cornea of the eye. Once you have flushed the eyes well with water, then take the dog to the vet, as specific eye drops (that don't contain a corticosteroid) and anti-inflammatories are needed for a prolonged period.

Other potential side effects of snake bites in general are immune mediated haemolytic anaemia (IMHA) when the body attacks its own red blood cells as a result of the intoxication. Other side effects include anaphylaxis, and possible necrosis of tissue and skin around the bite area, most commonly seen in Spitting Cobra bites. If a bitch is pregnant, there is a very good chance she will abort her foetuses as a result of the



venom itself and some of the medications commonly used, such as corticosteroids, may also cause abortion. Abortion can cause secondary infections of the uterus which may be life threatening.

AVOIDING BITES

There are a few basic rules to discourage snakes from frequenting your property. Firstly, snakes will only really move around in cover, so keep the grass mowed short. Avoid planting thick bushes and hedges close to the house. Remove all piles of rubble, rocks, logs etc that will provide cover for snakes. Snakes will also be attracted to an easy meal, so if you have a garden pond where there are loads of toads or a food shed where lots of rats live, snakes may be attracted to this food source. If you do see a snake in your garden before your dogs spot it, immediately lock your dogs inside. There are many people all over the Country who will come to your house and safely catch and remove the snake. Try and locate such a specialist near you and save their number for future use. In addition, you may want to spray the snake with water from a hosepipe from a distance as this will generally get the snake to move off without hurting it. Keep dogs locked away until you are certain the snake has gone. As mentioned earlier, most snakes are nocturnal, so if possible, keep your dogs locked up indoors or in a kennel at night to minimize the risk of them encountering a snake. Hopefully, by following these few simple guidelines, we can reduce the incidence of snake bites in future.



Photo of Roebel taken 2,5 months after the incident. Marietjie tells us he is doing really well!!

Labrador Rescue

Sharon, Ricki, Ruth, Jane and Marion continue to do sterling work finding forever homes for our Labradors that require re-homing due to people's changing circumstances or sadly, due to neglect. Although people give generously to this cause, the coffers do have a limitation as some people are not in a financial position to assist with the true costs of this operation and in times such as these, we have to rely on donations from members and the general public. We therefore make a plea to all our members to dig deep into their pockets to assist this worthy cause.

Banking details: Labrador Rescue SA, Standard Bank, Rivonia Branch, Branch Code 00-12-55, Account number 22 00 26 610

Reference: YOURNAME/DONATION

Over and above financial assistance, if there is any other assistance that you could offer these wonderful Ladies, please do get in touch with them on their Facebook page:

<http://www.facebook.com/messages/#!/pages/Labrador-Golden-Retriever-Rescue/272787116094225>

Website: <http://www.labrescue.co.za/>

Crufts 2016

Labradors were once again very well represented at Crufts 2016 with 588 dog entries and 656 bitch entries. The dogs were judged by Mr Gary Johnson (who judged the LRKC Championship Show here in South Africa in 2005) and the bitches, in turn, were judged by Mrs Nightingale. The Labrador Retriever BOB was awarded to Sh Ch Rocheby Sensational, a lovely two-year old yellow bitch, bred and owned by Marion and David Hopkinson.



Photo of Sh Ch Rocheby Sensational courtesy of Crufts, the Kennel Club and Fosse Data.

Member News

Seen recently at Crufts...

Club Patron, **Di Holman**, handled Lynne Minchella's Labrador bitch Abbeystead Reeve (FT CH Willowyck Ruff x Abbeystead Rhyme) to First Place in the Field Trial Class at Crufts 2016.

Mrs Minchella judged the LRKC Championship Show in 2003 and although she runs a very small kennel, she has sent some very influential dogs to South Africa. A prime example is Derek Brown's Trooper (Ch FT Abbeystead Into Africa at Bardale GMHR), who is behind a number of FT lines here.

Abbeystead Reeve also happens to be the Dam of Dale Fabian's most recent import, Abbeystead Frolic of Bardale, who has just had her first litter sired by Ch FT Bardale DB's Best Friend, the current KUSA National FT Champion.



Sheila Bales, Lekkerwijn Labradors, sadly passed away on the 18th of January 2016, on her 84th Birthday.

Sheila registered her kennel name in 1969, the same year that her foundation bitch, Diana of Silvertrees, won the LRKC's SA Bred Trophy. Sheila made up several champions over the years but she is probably best remembered for the quality chocolate line that she bred. Sheila wrote in *The LABRADOR RETRIEVER in South Africa* that her all-time chocolate highlight was Ch Lekkerwijn's Toblerone. Other notable breeding successes include Ch Lekkerwijn Halley, Ch Lekkerwijn Toreador, Ch Lekkerwijn Shiraz and Ch Lekkerwijn Maltabella. Another bitch that should be mentioned is Lekkerwijn Merryground at Adamasdor (Saartjie), dam of Ch Adamasdor Rolls Royce, who was All-Breeds Best In Show at the R&DKC Championship Show in 2008. Saartjie is still enjoying life at 14 years of age!

Sheila remained an active Club member and continued breeding right up until just before she passed away, regularly seen at shows with her daughter Camilla, who handled her dogs for her. Club Chairman, Renier Jansen van Vuuren, writes "Sheila won many awards in the show ring over the years and Sheila's line of breeding can be seen in many pedigrees today. We will miss one of the big names in Labradors in South Africa, a fellow breeder and a friend".



Seen at a field trial workshop held in Port Elizabeth on the 3rd of April: Shork's Woodlark of Inkwa (Kwatryn), owned by Jorisna Bonthuys, doing what she loves most. Read more about the workshop in our next Bulletin...

Photo by Nikki Moss

Stay safe and keep warm this Winter!

Cheers, the LRKC Management Committee

Compiled by Genevieve Alberts (Secretary)