



About NEFHRC Newsletter . . .

This monthly newsletter is to help members keep updated on our club events, achievements, or other announcements that may be of interest. Please call or e-mail Karen VanDonsel at (828) 877-3254 or karenvandonsel@gmail.com if you have anything you would like to submit. Alternatively, you may contact Tom Gaddis at (904) 699-3084 or President@nefhrc.net.

Please feel free to submit pictures, announcements of events, brags, sale of dog or training equipment, litters, or any other announcements for club members! The deadline for submissions is the 15th of each month.

If you have an idea for a recurring feature article, please let us know. This newsletter is for you, our members. We want to include what you want. So, please help make this a

great newsletter. Submit your articles, pictures, stories and ideas. We want to hear from you!



Adam Triay and Natty

Dog/Puppy Points

Please take the time to send your dog and/or puppy points to our Webmaster, Karen VanDonsel. You can send the information to Karen via e-mail at karenvandonsel@gmail.com. Be sure to include the following information in the e-mail: own-

er's name, dog's call name, dog's date of birth, points earned in the current calendar year and total points earned in all years (cumulative).

Alternatively, you can fill out the form on the club website at <http://www.nefhrc.net/club-information/submit-your-dog-points/>.

NEFHRC recognizes the top dog and top puppy each year. In this context, a "puppy" is defined as a dog aged 24 months and younger.

Last year (2015), only three members reported any points for their dogs! I know we have more than that!

Inside this issue:

Meet Adam Triay	2
NEFHRC 2016 Spring Hunt Test	2
Ear Infections & Ear Cleaning in Dogs	3
Officers	6
Calendar	7

Coming Events:

- ◊ 04/02-03/2016 Backwoods HRC Hunt Test
- ◊ 04/09-10/2016 Central Alabama HRC Hunt Test
- ◊ 04/16/2016 NEFHRC Training Day
- ◊ 04/16-17/2016 Coastal Empire HRC Hunt Test
- ◊ 04/16-17/2016 Eastern Carolina HRC Hunt Test

Meet Adam Triay . . .

Adam Triay was named New Member of the Year at our Annual Meeting in 2014. He was referred to our club by John Spires, who introduced him to HRC and to his awesome black Lab, Jackie. Since Adam loved the looks and drive of John's dog, Adam contacted Downhome Kennels in Ethel, Louisiana and purchased a female out of the same breeding. Natty's mom is out of Mossy Pond Retrievers. And the journey began!

Adam and his daughter, Megan, wanted a unique name that would describe the puppy but also wanted a jazzy call name to send her on. After deliberation, they agreed on *Natural Southern Woman: Natty*. The secret behind the name is Adam's favorite beverage is Natural Lite! In our club she's famous and everybody knows Natty.

She is a celebrity!! Future plans are to complete her Finished Title and breed her. She needs three more passes.

Adam is a local who attended Sandalwood High School and owns a thriving business called All Aluminum Concepts in Jacksonville, Fla.

Megan enjoys watching her Dad and Natty and she shared, "they are obsessed with each other." She plans to attend college for a degree to teach High School History. She also would like to get a dog of her own soon.

Recently they adopted a bird dog named Tiaun. They rescued her in South Carolina. She is awesome in the field but has a fear of guns. She comes to training and is always in hunting mode.

Adam and Natty are an awesome team. She received her first Finished pass at CFHRC. Adam and Megan are always willing and able to help with club activities and our hunt tests. We are grateful to have them as a part of our club.



Adam and Natty—Finished Pass

NEFHRC 2016 Spring Hunt Test Cancelled

The NEFHRC 2016 Spring Hunt Test has been cancelled.

Due to a scheduling conflict, we could not obtain a location on which to hold the test. While highly disappointing, this does provide additional time for the club to organize and promote the 2016 Fall Hunt Test.

The Fall Hunt Test is scheduled for the weekend of September 03-04, 2016. Yes, this is Labor Day weekend—a

long, three-day weekend. Last year's test was highly successful on Labor Day weekend, providing additional time on Monday to enjoy the long weekend.

Details for the Fall test will be announced as soon as they are available. Keep a check on the website and the Events Calendar for updates!



Eli

Ear Infections (Otitis Externa) & Ear Cleaning in Dogs

"My dog's ears have a terrible odor. What could it be?" "My puppy has been scratching his ears. The ears have dark, crumbly material in them. What should I do?" "My dog has been rubbing his ears on the carpet, but I do not see anything wrong. Why is he doing this?" These are some of the most commonly asked questions of veterinarians.

Signs of ear disease

Every day we see dogs who have problems with their ears. Signs of these ear problems include:

- Odor
- Scratching or rubbing of ears and head
- Discharge in the ears
- Redness or swelling of the ear flap or canal
- Shaking of the head or tilting it to one side
- Pain around the ears
- Changes in behavior such as depression or irritability

Ear disease is one of the most common conditions we see in pets. The medical name for inflammation of the outer ear canal is 'otitis externa.' It is estimated that up to 20% of the dog population is affected by this disease.

Causes of ear disease

Dogs can have ear problems for many different reasons. When we see a dog with ear disease we need to think about the possibility of:

Allergies such as atopy or food allergies

Parasites - ear mites

- Infections - bacteria and yeast
- Foreign bodies, e.g., plant awns
- Trauma

Hormonal abnormalities, e.g., hypothyroidism

- The ear environment, e.g., excess moisture and ear anatomy
- Hereditary or immune conditions, and tumors

Allergies: Dogs with allergies, either to food or something they either inhale or that contacts their skin, often have ear problems. As a matter of fact, the ear problem may be the first sign of the allergy. Since the allergy changes the environment within the ear, we sometimes see secondary infections with bacteria or yeast. If we just treat the ear infection, we are not getting to the root of the problem. We need to treat the allergies too.

Parasites: The ear mite, *Otodectes cynotis*, is a common cause of ear problems in cats, but less common in dogs. Some dogs are hypersensitive to the mites, however, and the resultant itching can be intense. These dogs may scratch so much they severely traumatize the ear.

Ear Infections: Numerous types of bacteria and the yeast, *Malassezia*

Continued on Page 4

Ear Infections (Otitis Externa) & Ear Cleaning in Dogs (cont.)

pachydermatis, cause ear infections. The normal, healthy ear has a good defense against these organisms, but if the ear environment changes due to allergies, hormone abnormalities, or moisture, the bacteria and yeast can greatly multiply and break down these defenses.

Foreign Bodies: Plant awns, those little "stick-tights" that cling to our clothes and our dogs' fur, can sometimes enter the ear canal. Their presence causes irritation, the dog scratches, and before you know it we have a traumatized, infected ear. So when you groom your dog after a walk in the woods, be sure to check the ears, too.

Trauma: As we described above, self-inflicted trauma to the ear due to scratching can exacerbate ear problems.

Hormonal Abnormalities: Deficiencies or excesses of various hormones can result in skin and ear problems. Thyroid hormone, [glucocorticoids](#) produced by the [adrenal gland](#), and sex hormones all influence the health of the skin and ears.

Ear Environment: Bacteria and yeast could not ask for a better environment to live in than a warm, dark, moist ear canal. Dogs with heavy, floppy ears such as Cocker Spaniels may have ear problems due to the excess moisture that builds up in their ears.

Other Causes: There are various rare hereditary diseases that occur in different breeds or lines and affect the ears. These include dermatomyositis in Collies and Shetland Sheepdogs, and primary seborrhea in Shar Peis and West Highland White Terriers. Squamous cell carcinomas, melanomas, and other tumors can be seen in the ears.

Diagnosis

Because there are many potential causes of ear problems, we cannot just say it is a bacterial ear infection, dispense antibiotics, and it will go away. Often, more work is needed. Your veterinarian can use an otoscope to look down into the ear canal and determine the amount of inflammation present, if the tympanic membrane ([ear drum](#)) is involved, and if there are any foreign bodies, tumors, or other potential causes of the problem. Swabs of the ear can be taken, smeared on a microscope slide, stained, and examined for bacteria, yeast, and mites. A thorough history and physical exam may help determine if this could be a hormonal, allergic, or hereditary problem. If these are suspected, further diagnostic testing would be needed. If a bacterial infection does not respond to the first antibiotic therapy, a [culture](#) and sensitivity may need to be performed to select a different antibiotic.

Treatment

The treatment is going to depend on what caused the ear problem and what secondary conditions are there as a result. [Antibiotics](#) are used for bacterial infections and [antifungals](#) for yeast infections. Glucocorticoids such as dexamethasone are often included in these preparations to reduce the amount of inflammation in the ear. Ear problems caused by a [systemic](#) disease such as a hormone abnormality or allergy must include a therapy that treats the whole dog, such as hormonal replacement or allergy testing and hyposensitization (immunotherapy).

Continued on Page 5

Ear Infections (Otitis Externa) & Ear Cleaning in Dogs (cont.)

Allergies: Allergies are commonly treated with regular ear cleaning with an ear cleaning solution, antihistamines, and fatty acid supplements. Sometimes [corticosteroids](#) are needed. These may be given in an oral or injectable form, or they can be applied [topically](#). Allergy testing and immunotherapy (hyposensitization) may be the best way to cure the ear problem.

Ear mites: Ear mites can cause a dry, dark, crumbly debris in the ear that resembles coffee grounds. For this condition, ear cleaning followed by an ear medication to kill mites will eliminate the problem, although the treatment may need to be continued over several weeks depending upon the product used.

Yeast: Yeast can cause severe ear problems. We usually observe a brown waxy exudate and a bad odor. Daily cleaning of the ears will help, but often these infections are difficult to treat, and special medications need to be given since antibiotics do not kill yeast. If you suspect a yeast infection in your dog's ears, consult your veterinarian.

Bacterial Ear Infections: Bacterial ear infections can also have a bad odor and often have a more yellowish exudate. If it is a severe or [chronic](#) condition, ear cleaning alone will not take care of the problem and antibiotics will almost always be necessary. Again, consult your veterinarian. Ear infections of the canal, if severe, can spread to the middle and inner ear, so prompt attention to the problem is always best.

Regardless of the cause of the ear disease, we must always keep the ear canal clean.

Cleaning ears

Your dog's ear is more L-shaped than yours, and debris loves to collect at the corner of the L. To remove this debris, apply an ear cleaner into your dog's ear canal. Ear cleaners should be slightly acidic but should NOT sting. Massage the base of the ear for 20-30 seconds to soften and release the debris. Wipe out the loose debris and excess fluid with a cotton ball. Repeat this procedure until you see no more debris. Let your dog shake his head to remove any excess fluid. When you are through, wipe the dog's ear flap and area below the ear gently with a towel. Depending on your dog's ear condition, you may have to start out cleaning the ears twice a day. Always follow your veterinarian's recommendations.



Cotton applicator swabs can be used to clean the inside of the earflap and the part of the ear canal you can see. They should NOT be used farther down in the ear canal since that tends to pack debris in the ear canal, rather than help to remove it.

Some ear problems are so painful, the dog must be anesthetized to do a good job of cleaning the ears. You may find your dog does not like to have his ears cleaned because it is uncomfortable. Talking to him during the process, stopping momentarily to give him a treat if he is doing well (we do not want to reward fussiness!) and doing something fun afterwards may all help.

After the ear is clean, allow some time for the ears to dry. Then you can apply any ear medication that was prescribed.

For more help, see our video on [How to Clean Your Dog's Ears](#).

Continued on Page 6



NEFHRC

4170 Stacy Road West
Jacksonville, FL 32250
(904) 699-3084
President@nefhrc.net

Always for the dogs!

NEFHRC is sanctioned by the United Kennel Club, Inc. We are a club devoted to the training of bird hunting dogs for the purposes of hunting and hunt tests. As the UKC says, we are a club "*Conceived by hunters for hunters.*"

Club Officers and Contacts

- ⇒ President—Tom Gaddis
President@nefhrc.net (904) 699-3084
- ⇒ VicePresident— Brian Milner
Vice-President@nefhrc.net (850) 687-7094
- ⇒ Secretary—Terri Tennille
Secretary@nefhrc.net (904) 514-1002
- ⇒ Treasurer—Barry Sales
Treasurer@nefhrc.net (904) 923-2813
- ⇒ Past President—Sherri Osborne
osbornequarters@aol.com (904) 753-1155
- ⇒ Webmaster/Newsletter Editor—Karen VanDonsel
karenvandonsel@gmail.com (828) 877-3254

We're on the web!
<http://nefhrc.net>

Continued from Page 5

Ear Infections (Otitis Externa) & Ear Cleaning in Dogs (cont.)

Preventing ear disease

The key to healthy ears is to keep them clean. Check your dog's ears weekly. A slight amount of waxy buildup may be present in normal ears. If your dog swims a lot, has pendulous ears, or a history of ear disease, routine cleaning (often once to three times per week) is recommended. Use the same procedure as described above. Excess hair around the ear can be clipped to allow more air flow. Follow your veterinarian's recommendation on how to treat any underlying condition that predisposes your dog to ear problems.

Remember, if your dog is showing severe discomfort, the ears have a bad smell, or the ear canals look very abnormal, do not delay in contacting your veterinarian. If your dog has a ruptured or weakened eardrum, some ear cleansers and medications could do more harm than good.

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APRIL 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					01	02
					April Fool's Day	Backwoods HRC
03	04	05	06	07	08	09
Backwoods HRC						Central Alabama
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Central Alabama						NEFHRC Training Day Coastal Empire Eastern Carolina
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
Coastal Empire Eastern Carolina						
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

MAY 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
01	02	03	04	05	06	07
						Carolina Boykin Spaniel
08	09	10	11	12	13	14
Carolina Boykin Spaniel						
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
						NEFHRC Training Day
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				