

From: LhasaKids
To: LhasaLhady

hi Deb,
This is what I'd thought I'd talk about at the specialty. Please feel free to comment or change wording or misquotes.

Intro- Introduce myself, you and Dr. Cederstrom

Our talk today is called Renal Dysplasia-Where do we go from here?

Today we're hoping to share with you our story of how we discovered and learned about renal dysplasia, share our knowlege we've gathered over the past 11/2 and hopefully get the lhasa world to start talking about this disease and to put an end to some of the unfactual rumors about this disease .

There's a saying that if you breed long enough sooner or later you will have to deal with every problem there is in your breed. Debby and I found out the hard way how true that statement is.

Debby has been breeding Lhasas for 17 years and we have been co-breeding for 13 of those years. We had a line breeding program going that we were proud of with very few health or structural problems along the way. That is until the day I had a puppy die and it was diagnosist with "probable" heritary Renal Dysplasia. Since that day out breeding program has been turned upside down and what made things harder for us was that when we reached out to the lhasa community for help and answers, we got very little response. First only a couple people would even acknowledged they had ever had a puppy or dog die from kidney failure. And the few people who did acknowledged it , biggest advice of help was- do not repeat the breeding.

We KNEW there was more to this disease than that. So we went out and started researching on our own.

First question that popped into our minds is what is this disease mode of inheritance? Is it a simple recessive or a dominant gene? The experts do not know! They call it a familiar trait. They believe that this disease has come to the breed through its ancestry. Several other breeds share this same disease in some form or another, including The Shitzu, Soft Coated Wheaten, Malamute, poodle, Norwiegn Elk Hound. Which means- we did not create this disease, but we can stop it. But to stop it we need to acknowledge that this disease is present in our breed as a whole, and we need to start talking about it and sharing our experiences if we are going to put an end to it.

I think most of you know the typical clincical signs of renal dysplasia- excessive drinking, frequent urination, urination that is clear-not concentrating. Well, if only every dog that was affected by this disease showed these signs dignosis would be simple. But this disease is very silent, often never even giving us, the breeder a clue that it is hiding itself within our healthy robust animals.

But let me ask you- have you aver had a thin dog? A dog that drank a lot of water but its urination was fine? A litter where so called healthy pups were born dead or one would gradually fade away. Have you ever had a dog just seem lethargic and suddenly die? Or one day throw up its food and within days it passes away? Have you ever had a dog die that was diagnosist as possible pneumonia or poisoning? Well, if you said yes to any of these you might of had a dog die from renal dysplasia. Renal dysplasia has a way of hiding itself, and these are just some of the ways we have ran across that could be possible red flags to the disease.

The scariest statistic we found was the 70% of the veterinary world did not know Lhasa's was a breed with hereitary kidney problems. Which means 70% of vets out there are not looking for this disease when they diagnosis a lhasa. Now I'm sure all of you have a good vet who you make sure are aware of the fact- but what about all your pet customers? Have you kept track of all the puppies you have sold? If you are like us 90% of every thing we bred was sold as pets. So even though the 10% of lhasas you have kept have not

shown any signs of this disease, can you honestly say what has happened to the Percentage that you sold as pets.

So what brought us to this point and sharing with you today was a misdiagnosis 6 years ago. If we knew then what we know now we would of saved ourselves a measurement of heartache. And we're afraid that there are many deaths out their that are actually due to renal dysplasia but the final diagnosis is from some other cause. And it's not really the vets fault, they are only going on what infor we give them.

Six years ago, I got a call from a person who had bought a pet from me, the dog was 9 months old, and had been throwing up it 's food for a couple of days, Just throwing up! When she took it to the vet her vet told her it was in kidney failure, Kidney failure is easily diagnosist by a couple of easy tests. I panicked and contacted the UofM vet school. Which has one of the top research nephorology dept. studing this disease. I had been on a research study with them so I knew who to talk to. The Dr. concluded by reading the dogs urinalisis tests that it was definetly in kidney failure.

My first question was is this the heridatary type? He said he couldn't be sure-A dog does not start showing any elevation in its BUN test, specific gravity or creatin until that animal's kidneys has lost 70 % of their function. This dog was probably already past that percentage. And what if an autopsy would be done when the animal died? It would be of NO help. By the time this dog would die his kidneys would be so atrophied they could not tell anything except that what ever had caused this dog to die it had affected its' kidneys.

So I asked him what do I do? He said Julie Look at your facts: You have been breeding 7 years with no incident of kidney disease, my co-breeder had breed this line for 11 years with no incident and we even knew knowledge of our line much further back than that which claimed no kidney disease. Second this was the bitches 3rd litter! And a repeat on top of it ! the first two were now 3 and 2 years old, all alive and healthy.

He told me several things could affect the kidneys, from a bacterial disease, to eating poison or even a congenial defect. He told me -the expert- not to worry and to go on with my breeding program.

It was what I wanted to hear and it made a lot of since. But I know today, that, that dog did die from heridatary rd.

So Debby and I went on, we did not repeat that breeding but we did breed the offspring from the dam. 5 years went by with what we thought no incident of kidney Disease, we had a sigh of relief telling ourselves that the U of M had been right it was not caused from heridity.

We thought we were in the clear, wouldn't you. Until a 11/2 ago when I had a puppy die at 4 months old. It had always drank alot of water but within days it went from that being its only sign, to lethargic, throwing up, and frequent urination. I rushed her to my vet and told him she was in kidney failiure. I still told him to do a full blood and urine profile on her and x-rays. Everything concluded she was in kidney failiure, with the x-rays showing a very small or possibly no right kidney. I thought Congenital! She could of been kept alive for awhile with the right food and medicine. I remembered back 6 years ago- If she dies from it the kidneys would be to atrophied to tell anything. I had her euthanized the next day and hand delivered her to the pathologist. I told him I must know her cause of death and I needed to know if her kidneys failed due to heridatary disease. He assured me he would see a thorough autopsy would be performed.

The autopsy came back in two parts The first part from the pathologist stating the exact state he found the kidneys to be in, from small and irregular. Lungs exteremly congested. The second part was from a Dr. Tim O'Brien who is a pathologist with his specialth in kidneys. He has written articles about kidney disease. He had done a further look at the kidneys specifically, His diagnosis- "probable hereditary form of renal dysplasis found in lhasa and Shitszu.

What were Debby and I going to do this was a line breeding of 5 generations. Was this the only dog of ours that had this terrible disease? We had to know, how would we go forward with our breeding program and what about the repeat breeding of this puppy due in 4 weeks?

Debby went out and looked for help.