

# Border Heartbeat



*The Official Newsletter  
of the  
Midlands Border Collie Club  
Winter 2010*

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## *A Word From The Editor*

Your Committee & Officers would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas & a Happy, Healthy & Prosperous New Year, with lots of Border Collie fun!

Border Heartbeat tries to bring you interesting news, views and articles and the feedback on the online issues from our readers has been really great. Many thanks go to those who've contributed to this new edition – we couldn't do it without you ☺ and we hope more of you will put your thinking caps on & write something for us in the future.

I mentioned Christmas – please take special care that your dogs don't get hold of chocolates, grapes or raisins over the Festive Season!! These things are dangerous (often fatal) so vigilance is needed. If in any doubt please send all your chocolate to me for safekeeping.....

Our website <http://www.midlandsbordercollieclub.com> is packed full of news, show results & interesting articles. There are also the archives to dip into, so please visit soon!

*Sheila*

## *Submission Of Articles*

Any article you submit must be your own work, **or** you must have permission from the author/hold the copyright. Submitting your article to MBCC grants us the right to publish it in Border Heartbeat. It does not entitle you to any form of compensation, financial or otherwise. We reserve the right to reject an article if we feel it to be unsuitable. We reserve the right to correct spelling and/or grammar should that be necessary. Articles should preferably be submitted in Word or Notepad electronic format via email.

**Please note** – the views and opinions expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those held by the Midlands Border Collie Club or the Editor.

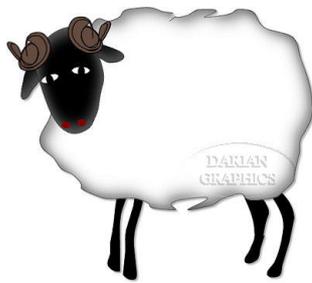
## Forthcoming Events 2011:

Jan 23: Agility Show  
Jan 24 – 30: Championship Working Trial  
Jan 29: The 2nd annual Border Collie Convention  
Feb 6: Championship Breed Show  
Feb 26: AGM & Judging Assessment  
April 24: Open Obedience Show  
April 25: Championship Obedience Show

## Chairman's Chunters

2010 is almost at a close and the MBCC has again had the most successful year. We have had some great events which have been very well supported.

I am very proud to belong to such a hard working dedicated bunch of folk we call the Committee - I thank you all very sincerely for a pleasurable 2010.



Plans for the 2011 events are well under way. Our first Open Agility Show has many entries already; we have added a social evening to The Convention weekend, a chance to let your hair down and have some fun. Tickets are now on sale.

The 2011 Championship Breed Show is almost sorted. Our massive Championship Obedience Show over 5 days will take a little longer. We have booked the same venue at Measham and we are trying to reorganise the car park and camping site, introducing another entrance and a one way system. There will be NO saving of camping spaces - we hope to get the staff to direct campers and caravans to spaces, thus making the minimum of vehicle movements. Let's hope the weather is kinder next year!

The Working Trials are running smoothly and entries are up; we have started to plan for the KC Championship Trial in 2013. I am sure Barrie would like some offers of help from our members.

We have had the idea of sponsoring an Agility team to go to the IMCA World Cup in Holland next September. Is there anybody out there that would like the chance to compete at this high level with the union Jack on their shirts? We hope to run some qualifiers early in 2011 for dogs with passports - any breed.

Please come along at any event to give me your views or you can email me.

I wish you all a happy Christmas and a healthy New Year,

**Bob Tunnicliff**  
MBCC Chairman

## Secretary's Sermon

This is the quiet time for the Club, but get ready as we have loads of wonderful events coming up just after Christmas.

On Sunday 23rd January we are running our first Open Agility Show.

Monday 24th January is the start of our week long Championship Working Trials organised by Barrie James, if anyone is free to help at either of the above Shows, your assistance would be truly appreciated.

Saturday 29th January is the date of The Border Collie Convention hosted by our Club, we anticipate an informative and enjoyable day with many first class speakers, on the evening previous we are organising a get together with food and dancing, should be fun. Sunday February 6th is the date for our Championship Breed Show; the judges this time are Heather Turner judging Dogs, and Tracey Wilkinson Bitches.

February 26th is the AGM followed by The Judging Assessment.

Easter week and once again we have the two Obedience Shows, Open and Championship to be held at Measham again, fingers crossed this year will be dry, last year was horrendous for the committee/helpers and competitors alike.



As you can see we have a busy schedule for the start of 2011, we have a wonderful committee who give up a lot of their free time to plan and execute these events on your behalf however we often require help at these events so if you have the time and energy come along and make yourself known to us, you will be welcomed with open arms. In addition to the above events we are planning to hold a Utility day, this is still in the planning stages as we are rehashing the paperwork and looking at new venues so keep an eye on the website for further information.

Have a Merry Christmas and a Happy, Healthy, Wealthy and successful 2011

**Val Earp**  
MBCC Secretary

### *ISDS Registration On Merit* *Bridacre Flair and Littlethorn Zashqai*

After losing Polly (Ma Biche of Whenway) I didn't really want another bitch as nothing could ever replace her. I had two other dogs Fells Drew and Polly's daughter Rosie who I could use to move or pen my sheep if necessary.

After a few years we went to see a litter of puppies bred by Derek and Maureen Briddon who were sired by our Sh Ch Whenway Royal Highlander (Jim) a son of Polly sired by the late John Wilson's double International Supreme Champion Spot (ISDS 161819). In the litter there was a tricolour bitch that Sheena liked and as she wanted a puppy by Jim we agreed to buy her. Her name was Bridacre Flair (Charlie). I showed her at a few shows but didn't have a lot of enthusiasm for it and so I decided to train her on sheep. My sheep, at that time, were not that used to untrained dogs and every time I tried to start her training it ended with sheep in all corners of the field and me giving up. When Charlie was about five and a half years old I read a book



on sheepdog training by Longton and Sykes describing training young dogs in a large round pen. I decided to construct one and started Charlie in the pen with the sheep. Within a couple of weeks we graduated from the round pen to her working in the field with everything under control. After about six months I entered her for the ISDS Working Test for Registration on Merit and she passed. She is now registered at the ISDS as Charlie (ISDS 297431). She was a bit old to start trialling with so her job is now to move sheep about and pen them when necessary and she is very happy in her role.

Three years ago we were visiting Bob and Alison Tunnicliff who had a litter of puppies at the time by Sh Ch Littlethorn Continental out of Sh Ch Littlethorn Kia. There was a very dark bitch in the litter and on the way home I said to Sheena that I fancied another go at trialling and that I really liked the dark bitch in the litter. I phoned Bob on my mobile and agreed to buy her there and then, she was registered as Littlethorn Qashqai and we called her Eve. We purchased her solely to train with the view to running her in sheepdog trials and she has never been shown. I won't bore you with her training, if you want to read about it then her training blog is on our website <http://whenwaybordercollies.webs.com/>



This year I decided to again take the ISDS Working Test for Registration on Merit with Eve and took it in October. For those who don't know what is involved in this test it is as follows.

- a) The dog has to gather a field of sheep.
- b) The dog brings the sheep to the handler.
- c) The dog then has to drive the sheep away from the handler for about 70 yards.
- d) The dog then brings the sheep back to the handler.
- e) Then approximately a third of the flock are shed off and held by the dog until the judges are satisfied that the dog is in control of them.
- f) The dog then puts the sheep back together and drives them into the corner of a field and holds them there turning any breakaways back, again until the judges are satisfied.
- g) The dog then takes them out of the field up a short pathway and into a yard.
- h) The dog is then required to get the sheep out of the yard and push them through a race (a lane of hurdles wide enough for one sheep at a time to go through) and out at the far end.
- i) The dog then drives the sheep back down the path and back into the field.

I don't know if this is the standard test for all registration on merit working tests but that is what both Charlie and Eve had to do. Eve was successful in passing this test and is also now Registered On Merit (ISDS 309472). Since then Eve has run in one Nursery Trial and finished in fourth place scoring 74 out of 90 points. I intend to run her in the Nursery Trials this winter and then in Novice and Open Trials next season.

**Bruce Kilsby**

(photo of Eve © Dr Angie Driscoll, [www.kinlochsheepdogs.com](http://www.kinlochsheepdogs.com) )





**By Jo Ratcliffe**

[www.bordercollieconvention.com](http://www.bordercollieconvention.com)

29<sup>th</sup> January 2011

Venue: Bretby Hotel & Conference Centre, Ashby Road, Burton upon Trent, Staffordshire DE15 0YZ

In March 2010 the Midlands Border Collie Club proudly hosted & supported the FIRST ever Border Collie Convention. The event was a huge success, and has received massive acclaim from attendees both in and outside of the Border Collie world. 2010's event comprised of three sections - Breeding, Showing & Judging the Border Collie, with each person having the choice to attend any 2 of the 3 sections. The event was concluded by the panel of speakers answering questions posed by the candidates, through the Chair Mr Bob Tunnicliff. Our panel of speakers consisted of Mr Ross Green, Mrs Toni Jackson, Mrs Kathy Burnell, Ms Penny Forster-Cooper, Ms Jo Ratcliffe, Mrs Rachel Spencer & Mr Felix Cosme.

Onwards to 2011, the event will yet again be hosted & presented by the Midlands Border Collie Club, and the membership are more than welcome to attend this "not to be missed" event. This year we have increased the size of the venue, and also the number of presentations it is possible to attend. As an option on the same day we are also hosting the KC's "Requirements of a dog show judge/rules & regulations" (presented by Mrs Christina Chapman) and the "Conformation & Movement" (presented by Mr Keith Nathan) seminars. We are all anticipating a spectacular & informative day.

Back by popular demand the "opening address" will be given by Mr Ross Green (Fayken) - the owner of the Breed Record Holder, who has most recently campaigned the Top Winning Border Collie bitch for the past 3 years running. We are all very excited to be able to bring you the highly acclaimed Mr Frank Kane as our key guest speaker during the morning period - Frank has a vast amount of knowledge, and is also the Border Collie judge for the World Dog Show in 2011. All candidates will have the opportunity to attend these two presentations (\*excepting those who wish to attend the Conformation & Movement seminar). This is a unique opportunity to see the Border Collie through the eyes of both the "Breed Specialist" and the "All Rounder".

The afternoon topics will be:

- "Applying the Breed Standard" presented by Jo Ratcliffe
- Breeding To Succeed presented by Mrs Carole Coode
- Presentation & Handling presented by Mr Pete Simmons & Ms Yvonne Strachan
  - Border Collie Health presented by Mrs Kathie Kinton
  - Genetics & Breeding presented by Mrs Toni Jackson
- The Show Border Collie Working Test presented by Mrs Rachel Spencer & Mrs Marion Turner

Note: The afternoon presentations will include example Border Collies  
**See the website for further information or contact myself, details as below.**

Tickets are available at an "early bird" cost of £20 (£10 Juniors) - £25 for tickets purchased post 20<sup>th</sup> December 2010. This cost is for a whole day of education, and includes a buffet lunch. Contact Jo Ratcliffe 01283 512193 / 07882 766853 email [joannegrandver@yahoo.com](mailto:joannegrandver@yahoo.com) for tickets.

**Also, don't miss our "bit of a do" the evening before the Convention, being held in the same venue (it is also possible to stay over at the hotel, at a discounted rate) – disco, buffet & social evening – tickets are available now at the cost of £10 per person.**

**Jo Ratcliffe**

## *Kennel Tales*



Welcome to our look at some of the affixes (or Kennel Names, as the KC now calls them) within our breed. How did their owners first become involved in the wonderful world of Border Collies and how did their affix come into being? Our thanks to **Kathie Kinton**, of the **Kinaway** kennel, who has kindly contributed this issue's instalment.

Kathie writes:

Kinaway: pronounced - Kin ---Away

To explain how we came to be involved in Border Collies needs to be in two parts so firstly I will give my (Kathie) background and then how we both later choose our Affix and became Kinaway Border Collies.

My background with dogs was from a very early stage I was brought up by my grandmother and grandfather my mother having died when I was 3 years old. At around 8 years of age I was allowed to walk my Uncle's dog a lovely beagle called Rex I have retained a soft spot for Beagles as Rex was a great dog and I walked him everyday after school.

One day, I still remember it as clear as if it was yesterday – Rex saw a cat and being a beagle took chase with me a very small thin (yes I was) 8 year old child holding onto the lead. He pulled me over but I did not let go – I was so scared of losing him or him ending up in the road. Finally, he gave up and I walked back to my Uncle's all my legs cut and bruised and told them what had I happen – I can still hear myself saying but I never let go of the lead!!

From that moment I think the whole family knew dogs were going to feature in my life and I walked a lot of dogs in the area for the neighbours. But the big impact in my life came when I was 10 years old. My grandparents could not let me have a dog of my own as my grandmother was quite ill and not able to walk. My father lived about 20 miles away in what we thought of as the country (now Hayes and swallowed up in outer London).

One Sunday on his regular visit he walked in with the tiny ball of black and white fluff – Kim a Border Collie.

Kim was one of six in a litter bred on a working sheep and cattle farm, the farmer had picked his working dog from the litter and Kim was left. I think my father paid a couple of bob (old money) for her but she paid for herself in her own working way a million times over.

For me it was love at first sight and as I got older and into my teenage years I was able to take myself on three buses to my father's shop to take Kim out for walks. Not that she really needed them – my father would walk her for hours before opening his shop and at the end of the day.

Kim also worked in the shop and I mean worked – she had customers eating out of her hand and I am sure many brought things they did not really want just to come and see Kim.

So as time went on I left home and moved away from London and as soon as I brought my own home – you guess I had to have a dog – no other breed entered into my thinking it had to be a Border Collie. At that time of course Border Collies were only registered with the ISDS so I purchased a Black and White buddle of fun with her ISDS papers and she became my Bonnie. I picked her up on Boxing Day – she met the lovely now rather elderly Kim and then back to my house to settle in.

My father had always been against obedience and in fact any kind of competition except sheep dog trailing – so although I trained Kim to do many things he would never let me compete with her – so now was my chance.

Bonnie and I joined training classes and got hooked and I worked her in obedience to quite a high standard.

Here comes part two of our story.

By now Dave and come into and my life and soon after we were married we started talking about having another dog as Company for Bonnie who by now was about 10 years old. Also, I wanted to work a young dog in obedience as I knew Bonnie would be retiring in the next few years.

So off to Crufts, we had been a few years earlier and watched the first CCs going out on the breed side and took a shine to the Bitch – as you now know was Eric Broadhurst's Sh.Ch. Tracelyn Gal. On the day we went we watched Eric with Emma's daughter and asked if there was any chance of a puppy to do obedience with. The following April Eric informed us that he had a bitch available from Rosehurst Theme for a Dream owed by Sheila and Bruce Kilsby.

Off to Manchester and we met Whenway Babsi from Rosehurst and of course home she came with us our own lovely puppy. The idea was that would train her for obedience but in the meantime, on the suggestion of a certain Mr Broadhurst why not do some showing.

I did not want to confuse Babsi so suggested Dave took her in the show ring and I would train her. First open show – best puppy in breed – then with Eric's help a Crufts qualifier – you can guess we got hooked on the show side.

A few years later – and in case you think I have forgotten one of the points of this article – we came around to thinking about having a litter from Babsi and thought well maybe we should have our own Affix.

Many of you will think that Kinaway comes from our surname but in fact it was from the fact that I wanted something starting with K – one for Kim, two for my family and three for Kathleen, which was my grandmother's name.

So taking account of these – it was the whole family – so Kith and Kin came to mind – so there you have it the Kin is for the heart of the family and the AWAY – should be said as it you are sending your dog out to the sheep – so A – WAY.

As I end this piece my thoughts go to Kim and my father who would not let me compete with her – and he certainly did not go a buddle on the whole show thing for a Border Collie. But I know he was proud when before he died he saw us take a first place with a Kin-away!! at Crufts!!

**Kathie and Dave Kinton**

Proud to be owned by our Kinaways!!!

## Bob's Travels 2010

I started my travels in April with an invitation to Italy. Lots to see and do; a chance to visit a newborn litter sired by my dog, a trip to Rome and a day at the Italian Border Collie Club Show.

Rome is a very old city with a long history and culture however at times too much traffic, hustle and bustle for me.

Once you get into the centre you reach 'The Vatican City'. It was breathtaking! Everywhere I looked my eyes took in the sheer splendour of this superbly maintained unique state. St Peters Square, The Basilica, Sistine Chapel - places to visit again and again.

Back to reality and on to the Club Show in the rain. The many very friendly faces at the show soon made us forget the dismal weather. Judging got underway quite promptly with a very mixed entry for the all-rounder judge to go over. Large heavy varieties to the smaller agility type all hoping to well. For me the class that really stood out were the Veterans. So many of the old imported British lines, a pleasure to see.

June arrived and I was back at the airport for a trip to Denmark and the World Show. This year it was hosted in a town called Herning. In my opinion this was the best World Show since 2003. Superb venue, very clean and spacious, even multilingual signs and friendly helpful staff. A complete opposite to the fiasco last year at Bratislava!

On Border Collie day judging was outside in a level tidy ring. Grooming tents aplenty and stacks of room for the dogs to show off their qualities. With so many enthusiasts from all over Europe it made for a really nice party atmosphere. Judging proceeded in bright sunshine, not too hot just nice. Placings were accepted with warm applause despite the Judge appearing to rush his decisions. Maybe he had a plane to catch?

I am of the opinion that the judging of our breed at this extremely high level of competition should be left to Breed Specialists. There are many Border Collie Experts throughout the world that I know would be highly honoured to accept such a prestigious appointment.



The remaining days in Denmark I was able to spend watching the Obedience and Heelwork to Music Competitions. I found the dog dancing fascinating, some of the routines so entertaining and clever. It is amazing with lots of patience and dedication what tricks you can teach you dog to do. My congratulations and admiration goes to all who competed in those disciplines.

Two weeks later sees me in Germany. I had the honour of judging Bitches, BOB and BP at their Breed Show in Siegen. My entry although not massive did include four adult bitches which I considered to be of outstanding quality plus a super bitch puppy. I can't thank the organisers enough for the warmest of welcomes and great hospitality I received.



Back at home and a few UK Championship shows to exhibit at then another plane takes me to Bratislava to judge at the Czech Republic Border Collie Club Show in Brno. We arrived very early on Saturday morning at the showground. It was really busy, tents, caravans, people and collies everywhere! The venue has several fields of its own, a clubhouse with nice showers and clean toilets plus chalets that you can rent for the weekend. (If only we had such a centre in the UK for our events!!). My entry here was large, 100 plus to assess. I was kept busy all day starting at 10.00 a.m. and finally finishing around 6.30 p.m.



I was very pleased that overall my entry in particular the bitches was full of quality and breed type. The majority I classed as 'excellent', very few overdone or exaggerated.

Dogs were more of a mixed bag but making my job a little easier to select the type that I prefer. On the whole I felt with a little more presentation and ring training more would have received an excellent. My BOB was a tri-colour male, masculine without coarseness, sound and powerful on the move. His

'look at me' attitude accompanied by his ring training demanded top honours which I was happy to award him.

Puppies and veteran were judged by another judge.

The following day I was more than glad to just, relax and watch the flyball competition and breed assessments.

So far 2010 has been such a busy year and it's not over yet!

It is now August and I am sat in my caravan writing this at the Royal Welsh Showground, Builth Wells. Glancing out of my window I can see the Brecon Beacons with grey rain clouds sitting on top of the peaks. It reminds me that it was not so long ago the forefathers of our show collies lived and worked up there.

Early in September, clean shirts packed again, I will be off to Switzerland to watch one of my dogs compete in the IMCA agility finals. This is such a high adrenaline sport which collies seem to excel at.



October will see me officiating at the N.W Club Show judging dogs.

As winter starts to approach I am off to Scotland as one of three judges at the Border Collie of the year event.

In December feet up and some Christmas Cheer I think.

Before I close I must say thank you for all the great hospitality I have received. Also to the many new friends I have made I hope to see you all again soon.

### **Bob Tunnicliff**

Littlethorn Border Collies

*(Ed: Bob wrote this earlier in the year for an overseas publication & has kindly allowed us to publish it again here & has also updated it with the IMCA photo)*

## *PBHF October 2010 Update*

Update from the Pastoral Breeds Health Foundation regarding Glaucoma Research

As you are all aware the PBHF held a gonioscopy research clinic at the beginning of this month. Thank you to all who attended and who allowed us to send samples to Alan Wilton for the Glaucoma Research and also to Finland for Epilepsy Research. The day went very smoothly and thank you for your patience - there were a lot of dogs and our two vets worked flat out all day, as did our vet nurse and the 'paperwork team'! We now await news from the BVA panel after their next meeting in November when we hope to have very positive updates.

Our fundraising in the UK has been amazing this year - with the amount raised now into four figures and on behalf of the PBHF I would like to thank every single one of you who has bought a calendar (a few left), ring clip (sold out!) walked miles (thank you Pam Lyon!) or just made a donation, every penny counts. If you check out the PBHF website ([www.pbhf-dog.com](http://www.pbhf-dog.com)) you will see various ways in which you can raise money - not least of which is the opportunity to have your dog's photo on the site for a month.

We are awaiting further news from the KC Charitable Trust with regard to our application for funding for this very expensive research project. This is the FIRST TIME we have approached the KCCT directly for funding for any of our research projects and we now await their decision - they are currently in discussion with Alan Wilton regarding the project. Previous gene tests have been funded entirely from donations (plus some help from the Australian Government which was negotiated by Alan), mainly here in the UK. The three gene tests we now have for inherited conditions (CEA, CL and TNS) were achieved through a lot of hard work - much of it from the UK BC folk.

A little while ago I wrote to various people/organisations in Europe, suggested to me by our Vice Chairman Bob Tunnicliff, asking if they would help us in our fund raising - the response has been minimal, which saddens us - a lot. The research project we are fund raising for will benefit every breeder/owner in the world - not just the UK!

I know there are owners and breeders world wide who have submitted DNA samples to Alan Wilton in Australia and these samples are invaluable in helping him build a database of dogs - please continue!! But what we need is more help financially - some of the UK BC breed clubs have already made very generous donations to the fund and it would be wonderful if other clubs in the UK and clubs in other countries would do the same? So can I ask members of this group to ask their own clubs - WORLDWIDE- to help us? Every pound/euro/dollar helps. Perhaps breeders everywhere would like to think about donating perhaps £1 (or their currency equivalent) for every puppy they sell to the fund? Over 2,000 BC pups were registered in the UK alone last year - I will let you do the maths as to what even 50p a pup would add to the fund....

Maybe clubs could also consider adding space on entry forms for a donation to the PBHF? Glaucoma is horrible - no dog should have to go through the pain and trauma - we need to find a way of eliminating it from the global Border Collie gene pool - and quickly.... Our research may also benefit other breeds. The quicker the funds are raised, worldwide, the quicker we will achieve our target. No one reading this and owning a BC can afford to be complacent - this has come into our breed so quickly and unexpectedly and frankly right now we don't know where it will strike next - so for the sake of your dogs let's all pull together and get this done - the PBHF will continue to work tirelessly to find a solution to this problem - but we, frankly, will struggle to raise all of the money without the help of fellow BC owners and breeders worldwide.....

Any queries/questions/donations please don't hesitate to contact me.

**Hilary Kerr**

Secretary, PBHF

[bardingley@googlemail.com](mailto:bardingley@googlemail.com)

### *Lungworm Update*

The spot-on treatment, **Advocate** has recently been licensed to be used as a regular, monthly spot-on preventative for *Angiostrongylus Vasorum*, as well as a treatment for dogs who test positive for *Angio*. Note: Advocate contains Ivermectin, but it has been proven safe to use at 5 times the usual dose in Rough Collies and Old English Sheepdogs, but owners should make VERY sure that the dog, or any other dog, doesn't lick the application site, as it may poison them.

**OTHER PREVENTATIVE MEASURES:** Remember to take in outdoor water bowls and all your dogs' toys and bones at night, so that they cannot be visited by slugs or snails, who can infect them by climbing over them/grazing on them. If you see shiny slug/snail trails around your garden, it's advisable to try and reduce the number of slugs and snails. Go out after dark, with a torch, search for, pick up and dispose of them. Remember **DO NOT USE SLUG BAIT**, as it's deadly poisonous to dogs.

**TREATMENTS AVAILABLE:**

- 1) **Advocate** - monthly spot-on application.
- 2) **Milbemax** - 4 weekly doses.
- 3) **Panacur** - 10-14 day course of daily Panacur.

Owners should familiarise themselves with the vast list of symptoms that dogs infected with *Angio* display. *Angio* causes **Cardiopulmonary Disease**, but not all dogs actually present coughing. 30% of cases present with sudden, unexplained bleeding, from spontaneous haemorrhage, e.g., haematoma; bleeding in the eye or mucosal bleeding; internal haemorrhage, including bleeding into the central nervous system, which causes acute spinal pain; or from trauma or after surgery, which can be misdiagnosed as anticoagulant poisoning. It appears that *Angio* itself produces substances which interfere with normal coagulation.

Some infected dogs suffer with shortness of breath, (Dyspnoea,) rapid breathing, (Tachypnoea,) and exercise intolerance, but *without* a history of coughing. Acute reactions similar to anaphylaxis may occur when heavily infected dogs are treated with wormers. Other non-specific symptoms that can include depression anorexia, weight loss, gagging, vomiting, diarrhoea and stunted growth. So a minefield for clear diagnosis.

Foxes are natural hosts for lungworm and are also responsible for spread of the disease and frogs can be part of the *Angio* life cycle. Some slug species that carry the larvae are extremely small and ingested by dogs accidentally, with grass, so owners may not see them do it. Try and get hold of the excellent pamphlet, published by Bayer HealthCare, entitled "Lungworm – Is Your Dog At Risk," which explains the life cycle of *Angio* with diagrams. Ask at your vet's for a copy. Basically,

- 1) Larvae from infected dogs are coughed up and swallowed, passing out in the dog's faeces.
- 2) Slugs and snails graze on the faeces, swallow the larvae, and these are ingested by the dog.
- 3) The larvae develop into adult worms, which can be found in the dog's heart and pulmonary arteries.
- 4) The worms lay eggs, which hatch into larvae and pass into the airways of the lungs, from where they are coughed up and swallowed, passing out in the dog's faeces, and so on.

Before embarking upon monthly spot-on applications of Advocate, check with your vet if you have a puppy, the age at which it is safe to begin the regular, preventative doses.

**Val Tiller**



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