



# PAW PRINTS

*Volumn 6 Issue 6*

**JUNE 2019**



**GINGER, THD, RATS CGCA, CGCU  
TKA, FDC**



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**LEKC meets the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of each month  
 @ The Lady Lake Library, W. Guava Street.**

Board meets 6 p.m. General meeting 7:15 p.m.

Website: [www.lekcdogclub.org](http://www.lekcdogclub.org)

### WHAT'S HAPPENIN' AT LEKC

August 28<sup>th</sup> Speaker on Megaesophagus in Dogs

September 25<sup>th</sup> Speaker from Jesse Fund for Therapy Dogs

November 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> 2019 Eustis, Obedience & Rally Trials

November 20<sup>th</sup>, Club meeting

December: 11<sup>th</sup>, Christmas Party

January 15<sup>th</sup>, Meeting

January 23<sup>rd</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup>, Conformation Show, Ocala

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### BRAGS:

**Magic finished his ASCA Rally Title 6/8 & 6/9/19 with a perfect score of 200 in Rally Advance and earned a High in Trial. (Ben Bond)**

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### **Predators unleashed in service dog biz (Orlando Sentinel May 7, 2019)**

Apex, N.C. All the counseling, therapy and medication did little to ease 9-year-old Sobie Cummings' crippling anxiety and feelings of isolation. A psychiatrist suggested that a service dog might help.

To Glenn and Rachel Cummings, Mark Mathis seemed like a dream come true. His kennel, Ry-Con Service Dogs, was just a couple of hours away, and he, too, had a child with autism. But what clinched the decision were Mathis' credentials.

"In 2013, Mark was certified as a NC state approved service dog trainer with a specialty in autism service dogs for children," stated an online brochure.

Ten months and \$14,500 later, the family brought their "savior" home. But when they opened the front door, Okami broke from Glenn Cummings' grasp and began mauling one of the family's elderly dogs – all as Sobie watched.

It was only after they had returned Okami that the family learned that Mathis wasn't a state-certified dog trainer.

In fact, no state has such a certificate.

The service dog industry – particularly in the field of "psychiatric" service dogs for people with autism and post-traumatic stress disorder – has exploded in recent years. But a near complete absence of regulation and oversight has left needy, desperate families vulnerable to incompetence and fraud.

"It is a lawless area. The Wild West.," says David Farve, a law professor at Michigan State University and editor of its Animal Legal and Historical Center website.

Properly training a service dog can take up to more than a year and cost upward of \$50,000. But the Americans with Disabilities Act does not require that a service dog be professionally trained.

"So it's a very broad, wide-open barn door," says Lynette Hart, a professor of veterinary medicine at the University of California, Davis, who studies the industry.

Two years ago, Noelle's Dogs Four Hope of Colorado Springs, Colo., agreed to surrender its license after state inspectors confirmed the placement of sick, poorly trained, aggressive dogs.

And last year, Virginia's attorney general filed suit against Service Dogs by Warren Retrievers Inc., which advertises dogs trained to help people suffering from diabetes, PTSD, seizure disorders and autism. The lawsuit alleges that the diabetes alert dogs, for which Warren charged up to \$27,000, were "little more than incredibly expensive pets."

Authorities in North Carolina are investigating Mathis, a biotech engineer who founded the nonprofit with his wife after their older son, who is autistic, was successfully paired with a service dog. In a May 2017 news release, Mathis claimed that Apex-based Ry-Con was the largest provider of autism service dogs on the East Coast and boasted a "100% success rate."

For Rachel Cummings, that "was huge." She and her husband contacted Ry-Con in July 2017. Within days, Mathis called to say he had the perfect dog for Sobie, although he had not yet met her.

The International Association of Assisted Dog Partners says a service animal must respond to basic commands – "Sit, Stay, Come, Down, Heel" – and be able to work without exhibiting "aggressive behavior toward people or other animals."

But during training trips, Okami pulled at her leash and refused to lie down. At a mall, the dog growled and lunged at people and defecated in a hallway. Still, Okami "graduated" last May and the family I brought her home Mother's day weekend.

Cummings says her two dogs were lying in the front hall when Okami attacked, unprovoked. When Mathis refused to refund their money, they sued. And then last November, he emailed clients saying the operation was not longer sustainable. The following day, he filed for bankruptcy protection.

Not long after, dozens of complaints began pouring into state Attorney General Josh Stein's office.

Nancy Evans says her 19 year old daughter, Katie, had waited over a year for her dog, Bailey. But when they got home to Toronto, the dog showed extreme aggression toward Katie's older brother. About five weeks after giving up Bailey, Kathie committed suicide, and her mother blames the loss of the dog.

Mathis accuses clients of breaking their contracts, falling behind on payments or misrepresenting conditions in their homes. In an email to The Associated Press, he insisted that his troubles all stemmed from recent financial issues.

"This is certainly not a willful act or scam," he wrote.

Stein, however, alleges that Mathis falsified medical records and breeder information, and contends he may have "siphoned" as much as \$240,000 for personal expenses.

Rachel Cummings says the experience left Sobie, now 11 with PTSD.

Her life is not what it was, her mother says. "The light's not back in her eyes yet."

As for Okami, Mathis sold her to another family – with similar results. They have also filed a complaint.

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Answer to puzzle: A donkey

### Aggression in Dogs: (Nicole Wilde)

I recently observed a temperament test being conducted to determine whether a dog was aggressive toward other dogs. The dog in question was a large, strong breed, and there was much concern because of his past history. As I watched, it became obvious that the other dog being used in the test was very worried. She licked her lips and averted her gaze, both common stress signals. But something else concerned me a lot more: she seemed afraid to move a muscle. Was it because the dog being tested was lunging at her, barking, or otherwise being overtly threatening? No. In fact, he was standing stock still, head slightly lowered, body tensed, staring directly at her. I could feel the tension in my own body just watching it. Seconds later, the dog being tested exploded in a display that, had he not been on leash, surely would have ended in physical harm to the other dog.

We are taught things about dogs early on. We learn that a growl is a warning, and that if a tail is wagging, that dog is happy (although that isn't always the case). If a dog is lunging and barking we know to be careful, because the dog is emotionally aroused in a potentially dangerous way. But what we're not taught is to beware of stillness. As most trainers know, the vast majority of what we call "aggression" is really fear-based reactivity. While it's true that there are dogs who are flat-out aggressive, there are a lot more who are acting defensively. All of that lunging and barking is their way of saying, "Stay away from me! Don't make me come over there!" In truth, they don't want to come over there. What they want is for the scary thing to vanish into oblivion, preferably yesterday. But think about this: if a dog really means to attack, he will. A lunging, barking dog is spending precious energy on a display that, if heeded, will actually avoid conflict. But if a dog is very still, staring, body fairly humming with tension, he's conserving his energy. That is a dog that should cause the hairs on your own neck to stand up, because he might very well attack.

I remember receiving an email from someone who had been bitten when he'd encountered a woman and her dog out in public. The dog had been standing very still and staring at him. Not realizing this was a cause for concern; he approached and reached to pet the dog. The dog bit him. He had no idea why. The answer was in the first line of his email, where he mentioned that the dog was staring. If more people learned to recognize that stillness for what it is—a precariously balanced moment that could result in violence—more conflict could be avoided. Of course, there is a difference between a dog simply standing still, and a dog who's gone into that tense emotional state which can too easily boil over into decisively aggressive action. See the photo above? That's a stock photo. The photographer had as part of the description, "Large guard dog with expressive eyes staring in disbelief." The only disbelief here is mine, that incredulity is the dog's underlying emotional state.

Meeting this type of dangerous stillness with threats or aggression is never wise, and will almost certainly cause the dog to explode into violence. If you encounter a dog who is displaying this type of body language, don't try to overpower or scare the dog. Instead, avert your own gaze, and back away verrry slowly. Notice I said back away, not turn and walk away; walking away offers the dog a chance to attack from the rear. If a dog has gone still when meeting your dog, get your dog out of there as calmly and quickly as possible. And if your own dog displays this type of behavior, enlist the help of a professional to modify the behavior.

\* Nicole Wilde is an award-winning author and canine behavior specialist who runs Gentle Guidance Dog Training in Santa Clarita, CA.

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**AKC's Chief Veterinary Officer Weighs In On Tick-Borne Diseases** By [Dr. Jerry Klein, CVO](#)  
May 01, 2019

Tick-borne disease is a growing threat to both canine and human health. [Ticks are parasites](#) that attach themselves to animals and people, feed on blood, and transmit diseases directly into the host's system. The disease occurs when an infected tick bites a dog or a human and transmits the disease into the victim's body.

The geographic distribution of ticks is changing due to climate change, de-forestation, and the changing living and migrating patterns of deer, birds, and rodents. This can vary yearly or even by season. Ticks are in virtually all parts of the United States, including some urban areas, and many parts of the world. They present a danger to both people and pets.

The most important tick-borne diseases that affect dogs are [Lyme disease](#), Ehrlichiosis, Anaplasmosis, Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever, Babesiosis, Bartonellosis, and Hepatozoonosis. All can have serious health consequences for dogs and many can have serious health consequences for people as well.

### **Lyme disease**

Lyme disease is an infectious disease caused by a spirochete bacteria (*Borrelia*) carried by the Black-Legged Tick (more commonly known as the Deer Tick). Lyme disease has typically been

associated in the Northeast and upper Midwest areas of the United States, but we are now seeing it also on the west coast (Washington, Oregon, and California), as well as in Florida. In fact, Lyme has been detected on dogs in many parts of the country and also in some areas of southern Canada. The tick has to be attached to its host for about 36-48 hours for transmission of bacteria into the host, and signs of illness occur about 2-5 months after a tick bite.

It's important to do a thorough check for ticks and remove them promptly after a walk in the woods or other grassy or shaded areas where ticks may reside. In urban areas, that may include your local dog park.

Signs of [Lyme disease](#) may include [fever](#), lameness, limping, joint pain/swelling, enlargement of lymph nodes, and lethargy. Lyme disease can progress to [kidney disease](#), which can become fatal. (Unlike Lyme in humans, dogs do NOT develop a "bull's eye" rash.)

Lyme disease is usually diagnosed via blood tests. The initial test detects exposure to the tick-agent and helps the veterinarian determine additional testing as needed.

The treatment of a dog that is positive on the initial test but is otherwise healthy remains controversial amongst some veterinarians. When the decision to treat a dog with Lyme is made, dogs are usually placed on antibiotics for 28-30 days.

There is a vaccination for Lyme disease. Though some question its duration and efficacy, the vaccine may reduce the rate and severity of the illness should it appear. Dog owners should speak to their veterinarian to determine if the vaccine is appropriate for their pet.

### **Canine Ehrlichiosis**

Canine Ehrlichiosis is found worldwide. It is caused by several types of ticks: The Brown Dog Tick, Lone Star Tick, and American Dog Tick. Signs include fever, poor appetite, and low blood platelets (cells that help the clotting of blood), often noted by nose bleeding or other signs of bruising or anemia. Signs start about 1-3 weeks after the bite of an infected tick. Dogs diagnosed and treated promptly can have a good prognosis, but those who go on to the chronic phase have more difficulty recovering.

### **Anaplasma**

Anaplasma is a disease caused by a bacterium carried by the Black-legged Tick (Ixodes).

Though Anaplasma can be seen worldwide, there are two Anaplasma species that are known to detect disease in North American dogs:

- Phagocytophilum: Northeast and the upper Midwestern United States,
- Platys: California and coastal states.

The signs are similar to Lyme disease, though dogs with Anaplasma often have low blood platelets cause bleeding disorders.

## Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever

Rocky Mountain spotted fever is one of the more commonly known tick-borne diseases to affect dogs and humans. It is carried by the American Dog Tick and the Rocky Mountain Wood Tick, as well as the Brown Deer Tick. This disease has been found in much of North, South, and Central America. Signs include fever, poor appetite, swollen lymph nodes, and joint pain. Low platelets, which help in blood clotting, are often found. On occasion, neurological signs such as wobbliness can also occur.

## Babesiosis

Babesiosis is another disease caused primarily by the bite of a tick, but can also transfer from dog bites, transplacental transmission and possible through contaminated IV blood. The main issue associated with Babesiosis is “hemolysis,” or the breaking down of red blood cells. Symptoms include lethargy, pale gums, dark-colored urine and jaundice (yellow/orange colored skin or sclera — the “whites” of the eyes).

## Bartonella

Bartonella is an emerging infectious disease in dogs, as well as cats and humans. It has also been known as cat scratch fever, though it may not be acquired by a cat’s scratch or bite. Bartonella is transmitted to dogs by ticks, fleas, sand flies and lice. Dogs present with a wide range of clinical signs including fever, heart abnormalities, lymph node enlargement, joint pain, as well as possible neurologic signs.

## Hepatozoonosis

Hepatozoonosis is slightly different, in that the infection is acquired after a dog ingests an infected tick. This disease is not zoonotic; in other words, people cannot catch this from infected dogs. This disease is generally found in the southern United States. Signs of the disease are pain and reluctance to stand or move, fever, muscle wasting, and mild to moderate anemia. This disease is severely debilitating and often fatal.

## How to Prevent Tick Borne Diseases

These diseases can present a serious risk to the health of dogs and to people. It’s important that dog owners talk with their veterinarian to determine the best approach to flea and tick control.

Further information can be found through the [American Kennel Club’s Canine Health Foundation](#). A map showing the prevalence of Lyme disease can be found at the [Center for Disease Control](#).

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**Quotes: \***

A goal without a plan is just a wish.

Who you are tomorrow begins with what you do today.

\*Coffee News

**JUNE:** Named for the Roman goddess Juno, patroness of marriage and the well-being of women. Also from the Latin word juvenis, “young people.”( Farmer’s Almanac)

What key is the hardest to turn? Answer page 3

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**It came to me that  
every time I lose a dog  
they take a piece of  
my heart with them,  
and every new dog  
who comes into my life  
gifts me with a piece  
of their heart. If I  
live long enough all  
of the components  
*of my heart* will be dog,  
and I will *become*  
as generous and  
loving as they are.  
(Anonymous.)**

**In Loving Memory of Ginger March 24, 2015 – May 30, 2019 Rest in Peace**