

ACSMA Newsletter

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Canine Arthroscopy: "Where Less Really is More"

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Diplomate ACVS

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Arthroscopy has proven to play a significant role in the diagnosis and treatment of joint diseases in humans, horses, and most recently dogs. Arthroscopy allows enhanced visualization of intra-articular structures and is associated with limited postoperative morbidity. Nowadays, arthroscopy has replaced virtually all arthrotomies in human patients. Arthroscopy has only become possible in dogs since the development of small-sized arthroscopes. Arthroscopy in dogs was first reported in 1978 and has seen an increasing level of interest and rapid development since that date. Small animal veterinary surgeons are currently capable of performing arthroscopic procedures on the stifle, shoulder, elbow, hip, and carpal and tarsal joint.

Arthroscopy has numerous advantages over arthrotomy for diagnosis and treatment of joint disease. Arthroscopy entails less disruption of the periarticular soft tissue. Decreased soft tissue disruption leads to less pain and less chance of infection. In most cases, return to use of the limb is quicker because of less surgically induced pain. This is especially true when multiple joints are involved and are operated arthroscopically under the same anesthetic procedure. A recent study by Hoelzler MG, et al., published in *Veterinary Surgery*, compared stifle arthrotomy to arthroscopy. Results of this study revealed a significant decrease in lameness, more comfortable range of motion, increased thigh circumference, and decreased synovial fluid inflammation in dogs treated with arthroscopy compared to those treated with an arthrotomy.

Arthroscopy may be employed in a diagnostic, therapeutic or com-

bined modality. Using arthroscopy as an exploratory procedure may prevent the necessity for an arthrotomy and is an important advantage in cases where a surgically treatable lesion is not found. Visualization of the joint typically is better with arthroscopy than with an arthrotomy. In joints like the shoulder and elbow, arthroscopy allows inspection of multiple areas within the joint that would not otherwise be possible without performing multiple arthrotomies. In

addition, the magnification combined with the fluid medium allows one to see joint pathology that cannot be appreciated with an arthrotomy. Visualization of synovial membrane and cartilage pathology, in particular, is better after arthroscopy compared to arthrotomy. With practice and development of proficiency, the length of an arthroscopic procedure is less than an arthrotomy procedure. Cosmetic appearance of the dog is typically better after arthroscopy compared to arthrotomy. For many owners, cosmetic appearance is very important.

Disadvantages of arthroscopy are that its use is limited to large dogs, the equipment is expensive, and considerable training is needed to become proficient with its use. Depending on the specific joint, the dog must be at least 45 pounds or 20.5 kg before an arthroscopy can be performed. Even though the price of arthroscopy equipment is decreasing, one can easily spend \$20,000-\$50,000 for the equipment

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A.C.S.M.A.



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American Canine Sports Medicine Association

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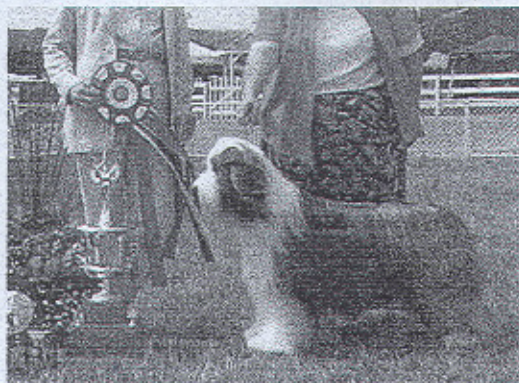
Pretty is as pretty does, and Claire has demonstrated that the beautiful show dog can also be the useful farm dog. BISS Ch. Pentangle's Forever Young, HlAsd, HRDIs, HTDId, STDs, has gone from winning Best in Show at the Canadian Bearded Collie Club National Specialty at just over two year of age, to winning High in Trial at the American Bearded Collie Club National. This summer, she will tackle a new arena - agility.

Her mother Emma, Ch. Pentangle's Kiss Me Now, HXAsd, HRDIIs, HTDIId, OTDsd, set the standard high. After rapidly finishing her show championship, she moved into herding and is just 3 points short of her herding championship.

Claire's offspring are showing the same promise of beauty and performance gaining AKC titles in herding and tracking at just over one year old.

Owned by Debra Thomas, DVM

Claire shines whether she is working (below left) or in the show ring (below right).



President's Letter

I just returned from the 106th running of the National Bird Dog Championship in Grand Junction, TN. As sports medicine veterinarians, we should never underestimate the stamina and conditioning our clients ask of their dogs.

The National Championship is a true endurance stake with 3-hour braces run in all types of

weather and requiring Olympic-level athleticism.

During the daily activities of our clinics and practices, it is easy to forget how important we are as caregivers to the valuable athletic dog.

Along with their owners and trainers, we are crucial to the well-being of all athletic dogs and the responsibility should be

taken seriously. That translates to strong continuing education, a focused attitude on our work and a real respect for our patients.

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Arthroscopy (con't)

(Continued from page 1)

and instrumentation. Arthroscopy requires considerable practice, advanced hand-eye coordination and needs to be performed on a regular basis to be performed proficiently.

Dr. Canapp received extensive training in arthroscopy during his residency at the University of Florida and is currently performing arthroscopic procedures for the diagnosis and treatment of diseases of the shoulder, elbow, stifle, and hock. Diagnostic and therapeutic arthroscopic procedures in the shoulder include: osteochondritis dissecans (OCD), bicipital tenosynovitis, glenoid fractures, joint laxity (glenoid humeral ligament tears). Arthroscopic procedures of the elbow include: OCD, fragmented medial coronoid process, an ununited anconeal process, and debridement of chronic osteoarthritic changes. Arthroscopy of the stifle include: OCD, diagnosing partial cranial cruciate ligament ruptures, debriding meniscal tears and ruptured cruciate ligament remnants prior to an extracapsular stabilization or the tibial plateau leveling osteotomy (TPLO), and performing the meniscal release prior to the TPLO. Arthroscopy of the hock is limited to the diagnosis and treatment of OCD.

The average cost of arthroscopic procedures at VRA is \$1700 for unilateral procedures and \$2500 for bilateral procedures. Dogs are typically hospitalized for one day following surgery. Post-op care includes physical therapy, treat-

ment with non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs for two (2) weeks and joint protective agents such as, glucosamine and chondroitin sulfate for life.

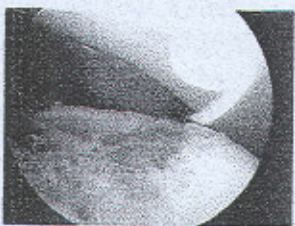
In the developmental stage of arthroscopy in the dog, a frequently expressed comment was that arthrotomy was a valuable and as easy (or easier) to perform as arthroscopy. Now that the advantages of arthroscopy have been demonstrated, the skepticism has changed into enthusiasm. The same evolution occurred with arthroscopy in both humans and the horse.

Should you have questions regarding arthroscopic procedures, please feel free to contact Dr. Canapp at (301) 340-3225 ext. 333 or e-mail scanapp@comcast.net.

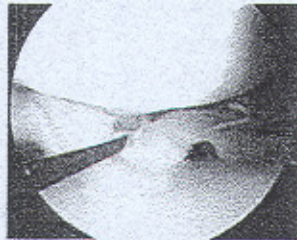
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Osteochondrosis of the shoulder



Medial meniscal injury



Bicipital tenosynovitis



2005 Calendar

Mark your calendar with the following important dates:
ACSMA Symposium July 16
(in conjunction with AVMA Conference 7/16-20)

Newsletter deadlines: for all articles & contributions

Jan-March	Feb 25
April-June	May 25
July-Sept	August 25
Oct-Dec	November 30

What Do Those Letters Mean?

Many times a proud owner will brag about the accomplishments of their dogs and, when reading about the Canine Stars in the newsletter, there will be mention of acronyms in the dog's name. Just what do they mean? These letters stand for the titles that the dog has received from different organizations in specific competitions. The competitions can reflect what the dog was bred for, such as herding or hunting, or trained activities such as obedience and agility. Also represented in the title is the level of competition.

In this issue, the American Kennel Club titles for herding and earthdog will be identified.

Dogs competing in AKC events must be registered with AKC. AKC registration means a dog, its parents, and its ancestors are purebred.

HERDING - to preserve and develop the herding skills inherent in the herding breeds and to demonstrate that they can perform the useful function for which they were originally bred. Although herding trials are artificial simulations of pastoral farm situations, they are standardized tests to measure and develop the characteristics of the herding breeds.

The herding titles also separate out levels, course type and animals herded. For example, HXA_sd would mean: Herding Excellent Arena course with sheep and ducks.

Title suffixes:

PT:	Pre-trial tested
HT:	Herding tested
HS:	Herding Started
HI:	Herding Intermediate
HX:	Herding Excellent
A:	Arena course
B:	Open field course
C:	Boundary course
s:	sheep
d:	ducks
c:	cattle

EARTHDOG - few small terriers and Dachshunds are regularly hunted to ground by their owners in natural hunts, but the AKC Earthdog tests allow these game little dogs an outlet for their excess energy and instincts in a way that benefits the dogs and the owners. Barking and digging are what they were bred for all those years, so now AKC has developed the three levels of Earthdog tests for these little game dogs.

Title suffixes:

JE:	Junior Earthdog
SE:	Senior Earthdog
ME:	Master Earthdog

Prefixes to the AKC registered name represents the ultimate level of achievement in that area of competition. Prefixes for herding are:

HC	Herding Champion
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