

◆ ACSMA Newsletter ◆

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Tibial Tuberosity Advancement: TTA

A new technique was developed in Europe in 2001, it is called the tibial tuberosity advancement (TTA). Like the tibial plateau leveling osteotomy technique (TPLO), the TTA neutralizes cranial tibial thrust, however, instead of leveling the tibial plateau, a longitudinal osteotomy of the tibial tuberosity is created. The tibial tuberosity is advanced cranially until the patellar tendon is orientated perpendicular to the tibial plateau (figure 1). The osteotomy is opened proximally using a titanium cage and then stabilized with a titanium plate and prong (figure 2). Similar to the TPLO, precise preoperative planning is required.

Surgeons at Dallas Veterinary Surgical Center (DVSC) have been trained to perform the TTA procedure. No short or long-term clinical evaluations of the technique are currently available. In addition, only a small number of TTA procedures have been performed, compared to the hundred thousand or more TPLO procedures performed worldwide.

Complications that have been reported with the TTA include: tibial crest fracture, tibial diaphyseal fracture, collapse of the osteotomy gap, and plate failure. No complication rate is currently available due to the small numbers of the procedure that have been performed in this country. The overall cost of the procedure will be slightly higher than the TPLO technique due to the high cost of the titanium implants and additional expense of a cancellous bone allograft.

DVSC surgeons are currently only recommending the TTA technique for very specific cases in which they feel it may offer a superior outcome over TPLO. These cases include patients with significant distal femoral varus deformity. Similar to TPLO, the TTA should only be performed by surgeons with advanced residency surgical training. The DVSC only recommends the TTA for very specific cases.

Thanks to Robert D. Barstad, DVM, MS and the surgeons at the Dallas Veterinary Surgical Center for providing this article.

Figure 1



Figure 2



American Canine Sports Medicine Association

Please send annual dues to:

Gail Cook, Executive Director, PO Box 07412, Ft. Myers, FL 33919

President:
President Elect:
Development Officer:
Executive Director:
Treasurer:
Secretary:
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Newsletter Editor/Publisher:

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Dr. John Sherman
Dr. Martin Coffman
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Dr. Derrell Elkins
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Send your comments and items for publication in ACSMA Newsletter to:
Gail Cook
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PO Box 07412
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President's Letter

My name is Ed Aycock, and in July I assumed the office of President of The American Canine Sports Medicine Association. I am a 1969 graduate of Texas A&M University College of Veterinary Medicine. I have been in private practice for 36 years with special interest in the diseases and injuries of athletic dogs, particularly retrievers, and reproduction. I have been training Labrador Retrievers for field trial competition since 1971 and have had the rare opportunity to share a home with two National Champion retrievers, NFC-AFC San Joaquin Honcho and NAFC-FC Trumarc's Zip Code. I am past President of the National Retriever Club and I have judged and competed in field trials all over the country. It is my privilege to serve this organization as President, and I hope that ACSMA will be better for my having been associated with it.

The 2005 ACSMA Symposium was held July 16 & 17 in conjunction with the AVMA Convention in Minneapolis. Both lectures and wet labs were

well attended. Drs. Randall Fitch, Derrell Elkins, and Joni Freshman gave outstanding presentations. I sneaked into the Lameness Diagnosis wet lab presented by Drs. Randall Fitch and Don Hulse, and picked up some gems which I now employ in my own examinations.

It is my desire for the coming two years to increase the visibility of our organization, increase the membership, and make the American Canine Sports Medicine Association synonymous with quality veterinary care for canine athletes. To that end, we are planning to produce a "lameness diagnosis" video which will be available to any interested party. I would like to begin the process of having an open membership meeting each year during the AVMA convention.

One of our goals is to establish several student chapters of the ACSMA so as to interest veterinary students in what we do. If your local association has interest in canine sports medicine problems and needs a speaker, ACSMA has many members who give excellent presentations, and we will assist

you in securing a speaker.

We need your membership and seek your input. One of the more enjoyable jobs of the President Elect is to plan the annual symposium which has given me the opportunity to select speakers and topics of particular interest to me and hopefully all veterinarians who deal with canine athletes. Our 2006 meeting will be in Hawaii July 15 & 16. Please plan to attend if you can.

We are in the process of updating the website and adding some features. If you have suggestions of things that might make it more interesting or user-friendly let us know. Please visit www.acsma.org and browse. My door and e-mail are always open and I would like to hear from you.

Respectfully yours,
Ed

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Getting To Know You

Following are short bios of two of the ACSMA's officers. Watch for bios on the rest of the organization's leaders in upcoming newsletters.

Martin Coffman (Development Officer): A 1970 graduate of Auburn's College of Veterinary Medicine, Dr. Coffman is a past President of ACSMA. After 30 years in private practice, he is now the Sporting Dog Veterinarian for the Iams Company. He is also a member of the Society for Theriogenology. Martin competes in Beagle field trials and VDD Drahthaar hunt tests.

Derrell Elkins (Secretary): Went to vet school at Auburn University, receiving his DVM in 1970. Masters of Surgery from Texas A&M in 1982. Board certified surgeon (ACVS) in 1989. From the AAHA Hospital in Madisonville, Kentucky for 16 years, to Chief of Orthopedics at Louisiana State University from 1986-1991. Is currently chief surgeon at Veterinary Specialty Center and a consultant to practices in Kentucky. An author of over 100 scientific articles and multiple book chapters, a recently published book, "Stress Management in the Veterinary Practice Team". Derrell speaks at local, state and national meetings on stress management, hip dysplasia, ligament reconstruction and radiosurgery.

Past President's Letter

As my two-year stint as President of the ACSMA draws to a close, I have ambivalence. On one hand, there is a "whew" attitude and anticipation of incoming leader, Ed Aycock's administration. But, there is also "I wish I could have accomplished more" feeling.

There were certainly some gains. We increased the dues and still had a notable increase in membership. We were able to get the "proceedings" book in the hands of members offering information dispersed over several years at our annual Symposium. Gail Cook, our full-time Executive Secretary, has been vital to the daily running of the club, and she and I kinda started from scratch trying to fill Jan's shoes two years ago. Getting Gail in harness has been a major benefit to ACSMA. Patti has provided us with a newsletter with excellent articles that have been an asset that is anticipated each quarter. We also were able, with the Board and Gail's help, to get the By-Laws updated. So, I would call the whole project successful overall.

But, there remain challenges. We need to develop a conduit for new leadership to the Board

from the great young veterinarians we have as members. Flying to the AVMA annually for ACSMA may be consequential in many young doctors' budget, so we need some method for new blood without physical attendance at the Board meeting. ACSMA needs to be better recognized in the athletic dog community. The term "sporting dog veterinarian" or "athletic dog veterinarian" does not have a ring with the enthusiast world yet. ACSMA could improve that with a PR effort.

ACSMA is financially secure but that brings on more questions: where do we spend our money? Fund research? PR campaign? More membership benefits? A message board on the website? Those are questions Dr. Aycock and the Board will address. As always, input from any member is welcome.

Thanks to all my Board members who have diligently strengthened ACSMA. Thanks to the membership for your support, comments, and dues. Thanks to Patti for dealing with the newsletter. And, above all, thanks to Gail Cook who really drives the ACSMA for busy doctors.

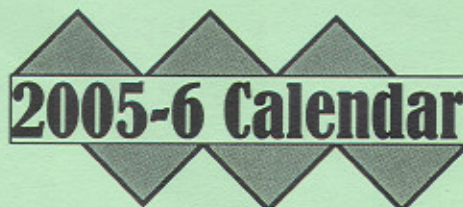
Sincerely,
Martin

Keep your ACSMA strong...

Please be sure to send your dues in if you renew in January.

Also, donations are always welcome and there is still time to make them before the end of the year.

Thank You!



Mark your calendar with the following important dates:

2006 ACSMA Symposium in Hawaii: July 15 & 16, 2006

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 proud owners will brag about the accomplishments of their dogs. 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 hunting, field trial and tracking 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.

TRACKING - to demonstrate the dog's ability to recognize and follow human scent, a skill that is useful in the service of mankind. The difficulty of terrain increases for the higher level titles.

Title suffixes:

TD:	Tracking Dog
TDX:	Tracking Dog Excellent
VST:	Variable Surface Tracker
UDTD:	Utility Dog Tracking
UDTDX:	Utility Dog Tracking Dog Excellent
UDXTDX:	Utility Dog Excellent Tracking Dog Excellent
UDVST:	Utility Dog Variable Surface Tracking
UDXVST:	Utility Dog Excellent Variable Surface Tracking

HUNTING - There are three categories of Hunting Tests separated by the breed's original hunting skills. *Pointing Breeds:* to afford an opportunity for a person to demonstrate a dog's ability to perform in a manner consistent with the demands of actual hunting conditions. Testing gauges the dog's natural hunting ability and training.

Retriever: designed to give the dog owner a good, basic hunting dog and provide a place to run and compete. All test levels should be designed to simulate, as nearly as possible, true hunting situations and natural hazards, obstacles, numerous decoys.

Spaniels: Spaniels are judged on their natural and trained ability to hunt, flush and retrieve their game on both land and water.

Title suffixes for all hunt tests:

JH:	Junior Hunter
SH:	Senior Hunter
MH:	Master Hunter

FIELD TRIAL - These tests are separated according to hunting style and/or breed specific. Earning a title is a clear demonstration of a high level of accomplishment and ability, therefore, these titles are all listed as prefixes. *Basset Hound:* Trials are designed and conducted for the purpose of selecting those Hounds who display sound quality and ability to their best advantage.

Beagle: Divided into group sizes, from braces of two to large packs, judged on finding and tracking rabbits.

Dachshund: Credit is earned for searching ability, pursuing ability, accuracy in trailing, obedience to command, proper use of voice, willingness to go to ground, endurance, determination and courage, patience, adaptability, independence, cooperation, competitive spirit, intelligence displayed when searching or in solving problems encountered along the trail, and success in accounting for game.

Pointing Breeds: The dogs are run in pairs around a course on which birds are released so that they can demonstrate their ability to find birds, point staunchly and retrieve the downed birds.

Retriever: The dogs that compete at these events are some of the best-trained, highly skilled, and well-conditioned competitors in the Sporting group.

Spaniels: To demonstrate the performance of a properly trained Spaniel in the field. The performance should not differ from that in any ordinary day's shooting, except that in the trials a dog should do his work in a more nearly perfect way.

Prefixes demonstrate excellence and the ultimate achievement in each area of competition. The following are the prefixes for tracking and field trial:

CT	Champion Tracker
FC	Field Champion
AFC	Amateur Field Champion
NFC	National Field Champion
NAFC	National Amateur Field Champion
DC	Dual Champion (Ch. and FC)
TC	Triple Champion (Ch., FC and OTCH)

