

GLSDA NEWSLETTER



JUNE 2014



GREAT LAKES SLED DOG ASSOCIATION
TRAIL TIME NEWSLETTER

TRAIL TIME Advertising Rates & Deadlines

All ads must be received by the editor by the last day of the month prior to the month of publication and must be accompanied by a check, made payable to GLSDA. Please allow more time for ads not "print ready". There's a 15% discount for running in 12 issues, and a 10% discount for running in three or more issues.

Member Advertising Rates

Full page **\$20**

Half page **\$14**

Quarter page **\$10**

Eighth page **\$8**

Non Member Advertising Rates are double.

Annual Membership Fees

Regular **\$25**

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Associate **\$10**

Junior **\$15**

Membership runs from May 1 to May 1.

Please see the membership application for more information.

For a \$500 Race Sponsorship, you receive a half-page ad in *TRAIL TIME* for one year and an ad on the club trailer.

The purposes of this association are as follows: 1. To (a) promote public interest in the sport of sled dog racing and related activities, (b) establish uniform rules and procedures for the conduct of sled dog racing and related activities that will foster the safety of competitors and animals involved, (c) promote the education of the association's members on its rules, regulations and procedures, (d) inform and educate the members in the proper care and handling of the animals to insure their humane treatment and to insure identification of any health problem peculiar to the sled dog, (e) foster cooperation among all members and race organizations.

TRAIL TIME is the official publication of the Great Lakes Sled Dog Association. It is published monthly, totaling 12 issues yearly. The purpose of GLSDA is to foster and perpetuate the practice of sled dog competition through breeding, training, showing, driving, and racing. The view and opinions stated herein do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the board members or editor. GLSDA does not assume responsibility for misuse of information.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE • JUNE 2014

Happy June, everyone. I hope you've all had a chance to enjoy some of the warm weather with your friends of the canine variety. If your kennel is anything like mine, they love to pull, but they certainly won't complain about an afternoon spent chasing a brand new tennis ball and lounging in a kiddie pool of cold hose water. Be sure to give everyone plenty of free time and attention; mingling in the summer is just as important as adding miles in the winter.

I'd love to publish a few fun, summertime photos, so feel free to send me some, either via email or Facebook. Speaking of publishing, I'm sure you've noticed the new layout this month. It's a little bare-bones this time around, but I'll work on gathering plenty of fillers and pertinent info for future deadlines. One idea I'll be working on is a member interview. This will be similar to the "Everybody Has a Story" feature in *Dog & Driver*, for those who have seen it. I'll be sending out a questionnaire to every member with an email address on file. You'll then see these mini interviews published as space

permits. Hopefully it'll make for some fun reading.

One more note on the newsletter front: for those of you who receive a hardcopy, forgive me for it being late this month (and maybe next). I'm trying my hardest to duplicate Margaret's efficiency, but it'll take me a few tries!

In the "random" category: I tried a new-to-me aerosol tick spray. I haven't had much luck with it. I didn't soak the dogs with the product as directed (seemed like an awfully big dose of pesticide at once...) but I put some on the house dog, and he had a tick on him two days later. I'll probably just bite the bullet and go back to regular "between the shoulders" tick stuff. I know some people don't bother with it at all, but especially for the dogs who wind up inside at night, I like 'em to be free of creepy crawlies.

I suppose that's all for now. Be on the lookout for those member questionnaires to be showing up in your inboxes within the next few weeks.

See you in the chute!

UPCOMING EVENTS

The next meeting of the Board of Directors for GLSDA will be held **Sunday, July 20 at 11 a.m.** The meeting will be held at the home of Matt Woudenberg in Cadillac. For directions, please contact Matt at (231) 878-4080 or mwoudenberg2001@yahoo.com. If you are interested in receiving an agenda prior to the meeting, please contact Annie Hammond at (517) 348-2737 or email Annie at hammond.annie@gmail.com. **This meeting is open to the membership if you wish to attend.**

TO CLONE OR NOT TO CLONE SHOULD IT BE A QUESTION?

Sara Chisnell • UKC Legal Counsel

The idea of cloning an animal sounds so sci-fi and unrealistic to most, yet it's slowly becoming an emerging practice in the horse world. Is it something that may begin happening in realm of purebred dogs? My interest in the subject first became piqued when I heard about the American Quarter Horse Association lawsuit regarding their rule against registering clones. My initial reaction was 100% siding with the registry, and that clones are patently unfair. What if everyone in horse racing started cloning—then what, we have a Kentucky Derby full of 20 Secretariats? The use of cloning is a little more complex than that. After some more research, which I limited to cloning in horses and what little has been done with dogs, and reading the lawsuit, my mind has opened a bit to the idea.

Cloning horses occurs at a much greater rate, and for more sophisticated reasons, than it does with dogs. The first equine animal cloned was Idaho Gem, a racing mule, in 2003. (I know what you're thinking. There are racing mules?) Via Gen, a cloning lab that came about around the same time as Idaho

Gem, based in Texas, is one of the biggest contributors, and responsible for many of the cloned horses in the world. Two of the most famous are Sapphire and Gem Twist; both were very successful Grand Prix show jumpers. Both, however, were geldings, meaning they were neutered and could not reproduce. Gem Twist, in particular, was an Olympic medalist and unprecedented Horse of the Year three times. He died in 2006, but tissue had already been preserved. He has been cloned twice; and one clone, Gemini, has already produced a foal. A famous three-day eventer horse, Tamarillo, has also been cloned for the same reason; he is a gelding. The 2016 Olympics will be the first to allow cloned horses to enter. The practice has also become very popular in the sport of polo in South America. The first crop of polo clones are actually competing and have been very successful players.

While the cloned polo horses are actually competing, for the most part cloned horses are only used for breeding purposes. The process is expensive and the resulting horses worth so much, the risk of injury from competition is not

GREAT LAKES SLED DOG ASSOCIATION CODE OF ETHICS

1. The most important issue to remember is that the public is watching! Be neat, clean, and pleasant.
2. Bring your dogs to the race site brushed and clean.
3. Conduct yourself and your crew members at drivers' meetings, race sites, and host towns in a professional and friendly manner.
4. Park in the same spot both days of an event.
5. If you have a disagreement or complaint, take it out of view of the public.
6. Do not leave your dogs unattended outside at the vehicle during the race day.
7. Use some of your spare time to help others. Assist the new drivers. Help other teams to the line. Answer questions asked by the public readily. Do whatever you can to help the event run smoothly.
8. Keep your parking area clean at all times. Pick up straw and waste materials and put it in dumpster or take home with you to dispose of there.
9. Leave your motel rooms and parking sites at these motels as clean as you found them. We want to be welcome to return the following year.
10. There will be no open display of alcohol allowed at GLSDA public events.

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GLSDA Shirt Order Form

OUR ANNIVERSARY DESIGN! "50 Years and Running..."
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Shirts in stock will also be available at all G.L.S.D.A. events for purchase, minus \$5.00 shipping.
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worth the gamble when the real purpose of the clone is to reproduce from an animal that you could not otherwise. Horses that are retired to stud from racing are treated the same way because of their high value (often in the millions); most are never even ridden again.

The process begins with taking a tissue sample and preserving it - called gene banking - which itself costs \$1,500. The tissue cannot be taken from a deceased animal. The cloning process itself costs around \$170,000. The embryo created with the preserved cells is put into a surrogate mare, and if all goes well and succeeds, 11 months later you have a cloned foal.

Some have compared the practice of cloning to “playing God”, and that it’s unnatural. A valid argument to that is that there is nothing natural about modern breeding; basic selective breeding itself is not “natural”, and then there are other practices beyond that that have become the norm, such as artificial insemination and embryo transfer. What is natural about using semen frozen 30 years ago from a dog that has long since passed? Cloning an animal in no way guarantees that you will have another winner or Olympic medalist; it only guarantees that you will have the exact same breeding as the original model. Too many other factors come into play for performance success, such as environment, nutrition, training, etc. Clones could potentially be invaluable to breeding programs where they are cloned from a neutered animal.

Where clones are really hitting a roadblock is in registration. In much of the equine performance world, registration is not important and not a requirement to entering performance events as it is in most of the dog world. The U.S. Equestrian Federation has no position or restriction against cloned horses, and the Fédération Équestre Internationale reversed its previous stance and now allows them in competition. However, many of the USEF member affiliates that are breed registries have their own position against clones. The Jockey Club, which is the only registry for racing Thoroughbred horse in the U.S., does not even permit artificial insemination (AI), and actually specifies that breeding must be done through physical mounting and natural gestation. Clearly, no cloning would be permitted. That may change after the ruling in the recent American Quarter Horse Association case.

The AQHA was recently sued by Abraham Equine, Inc., because of their rule on clones. The AQHA is one of the largest horse registries in the world, and essentially the only registry for the Quarter Horse breed. The breeding and registration rules are always evolving, and are voted on by the membership and the Board. The AQHA used to have the same rule as the Jockey Club, requiring live cover only, but have evolved as the different breeding practices have become more mainstream. In 2002 they went so far as to change a rule to allow the registration of more than one offspring per year from a mare through embryo transfer. They also now permit Intracytoplasmic Sperm Injection.

When cloning horses first began, the AQHA adopted a rule excluding clones from the stud book, and the Stud Book and Registration Committee, which reports to the AQHA membership and the Board, has continued over the years to recommend retaining the rule after receiving at least four requests to rescind the rule. The SBRC is comprised of AQHA

members that have some breeding experience and serves to review proposed changes to registration rules and make recommendations on the rules to the AQHA membership.

Abraham Equine, Inc., had cloned some successful Quarter Horses and used them for breeding purposes, and wanted to register the offspring of the clones. They brought suit under the Sherman Antitrust Act, the Clayton Act, and the Texas Free Enterprise Act, all of which govern are laws dealing with monopolization. As the AQHA is essentially the only registry for Quarter Horses, it is basically a monopoly over the Quarter Horse market. Abraham Equine, Inc., claimed in their suit that refusing registration to the offspring of their clones is an abuse of the AQHA monopoly, has no reasonable business justification, and adversely affects competition. It bars all entry into the market for the horses that originate from clones, because there is nowhere else for them to register as Quarter Horses and they are barred from all AQHA competition. It also devalues their horses. So they sought a permanent injunction against the AQHA, which would be the court ordering them to change the rule, and also sought an award of damages for the loss of value in their horses and lost profits and attorneys’ fees. In August, a federal jury found in favor of Abraham Equine, Inc. While no damages were awarded, the AQHA has been ordered to amend its rules and also to register the clones and their offspring. Abraham was also awarded nearly a million dollars in attorneys’ fees. AQHA has filed an appeal.

Does this have any sort of implication for the dog world? Well, if cloning ever becomes more streamlined and cost effective, it could. It is definitely a case to watch. If the ruling is upheld, it will rock the Thoroughbred racing world.

Dogs have a different history with cloning than horses. While horses have been cloned with the intent of breeding, that’s not been the case so much with dogs. The first cloned dog was Snuppy, an Afghan Hound, in South Korea in 2005. It involved 123 surrogate dams before success was finally reached. Several detection dogs were cloned for South Korea, as well. Some of the scientists that were part of this cloning went on to become part of a company that offers commercial cloning.

The first commercially cloned pet was a pet cat for a Texas woman in 2004 by a company called Genetic Savings and Clone to the tune of \$50,000. A few other companies have arisen as well, and some tissue/DNA banking has come about as well, to preserve for the day that cloning becomes more feasible and affordable. It appears that the only dogs cloned so far have been for purposes of replacing a pet, not for breeding. No dog registry has yet made a direct rule. The Kennel Club (England) has taken the stance that breeding dogs is done for improvement of breeds, and that cloning does nothing to further that as it only produces replicas of the same dogs. AKC has not made a strong stance yet. Nor has UKC; dog cloning hasn’t occurred enough to create the necessity for a rule at this time.

What do you think? If this became more mainstream and affordable, like AI, is it something you would consider using in your breeding program?

Annie Hammond, Editor
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