

ETRC Upcoming Events

Volume XXIII, Issue 11

November 2023



MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW FOR ETRC'S UPCOMING EVENTS!

1. November 14-15, 2023: Midweek Master Only, Brian Caldwell's, one flight (66 dogs)
2. February 24, 2024, Saturday: Awards Banquet, Elections, General Meeting: Bearden Banquet Hall, 6:00 p.m.

As the hunt test season winds down, thanks to everyone who has helped make this year such a success!

Photo of the Month



Time to be thankful for lots of things — including our wonderful dogs!

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SOON!

November Hunt Test Coming Soon —November 14-15, 2023

Brian Caldwell's Farm, Georgetown, TN

Our final hunt test of the year is coming up in 2 weeks. It's another Master Hunter only, single stake, at Brian Caldwell's farm in Georgetown. Entries are open now at Entry Express until closing on November 6, and there is still room to enter. There are always fun tests, relaxed since there is only one test site running, with plenty of opportunity to watch the dogs and discuss the tests and the various performances. So, bring a chair and come watch even if you don't have a dog ready to enter at this level. Let's all hope for mild, sunny weather for a terrific end to a busy hunt test season!

How to get to Brian's Farm:

The address is 1810 State Highway 58 South, Georgetown, TN, near Cleveland and Decatur and not far from Dayton, TN. If you don't have a GPS, here are some more detailed instructions:

- ◆ From Interstate 75, take exit 49 for TN-30 towards Decatur.
- ◆ Follow TN-30W for 9.3 miles into the stop light in Decatur
- ◆ Turn left onto TN-58S. Stay on this road for 15 miles and turn left into Brian's property. This is just after going up a hill, so be prepared to turn in a hurry as you approach the hill.

There will be "ETRC" signs at the entrance and the gate will be open.

COMING NEXT MONTH: Awards and Nomination Calls

Here's a heads up for everyone — next month is Awards and Nominations month. You will be asked to send information about any titles your dog has earned during the year, plus you will have the opportunity nominate your dog for some of our year-end awards — Puppy Of The Year, Gun Dog Of The Year, and our brand-new yearly award, the Chuck Atchley Lifetime Achievement Award. In addition, you can nominate one of our hard-working members for ETRC Member of the Year award or the ETRC AKC Sportsman Of The Year Award. So put on your thinking caps now! Full details on how to submit nominations will be included in the December newsletter.

Also, next month is time to submit any floor nominations for Board and Officer positions. The nominating committee is currently hard at work trying to pin down people willing to serve and will present their slate of nominees to me as Secretary on or before November 24. But, there is still a chance to nominate other people if you wish — December is the month to do that, and full details will be in the December newsletter.

See the next page for more information about our newest award. The rules were drafted and sent around for editing and email approvals of the Board and were adopted on October 16.

ETRC CHUCK ATCHLEY LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD RULES (Finalized 10/16/23)

1. Every year, ETRC will award the Chuck Atchley Lifetime Achievement award to the nominated ETRC-owned dog that most clearly represents the highest levels of achievement as detailed below. Any member is welcome to nominate any dog for this award during the December awards nomination period; if more than one dog is nominated, selection will be made by a vote of the Board. For this award, the usual prohibition against the President voting is waived; if there is a tie, a second vote will be taken and if there is still a tie, both dogs will be honored for that year
2. Dogs nominated must be owned /have been owned by a current ETRC member at the time the award nomination is made. Deceased dogs are eligible for this award. A dog may be nominated multiple times, however once the dog has won the award, he / she will no longer be eligible for further consideration.
3. Nominations will be called for in the December issue of the ETRC Newsletter, and details will be provided in that newsletter of where to send your nominations. In order to nominate a dog, the owner (or other member nominating another member's dog) must provide a detailed written explanation of why the dog is worthy of this award. Two or three sentences will not suffice! This justification should include statistics and details concerning one or all of the following areas for consideration:
 - **Field performance.** Please enumerate titles earned in hunt tests or field trials (including AKC and HRCH events), number of passes achieved, and any other comments that pertain to the dog's excellence (number of tests passed out of tests taken, ETRC awards such as Gun Dog of the Year, age at the time titles were earned, comments about style, etc.).
 - **Breeding performance.** Please enumerate the total number of puppies sired / whelped by the nominated dog and the number of titled puppies. Titles can be earned by those puppies in any recognized AKC or HRCH dog sport. Also include any breed recognition such as Outstanding Sire or Dam awards achieved by the nominated dog. You may also include any other notable achievements by the nominated dog's progeny for which titles aren't awarded, such as Seeing Eye, etc.
 - **Success of the nominated dog in any other non-field related endeavor.** Please include any information on the nominated dog's titles / achievements in other AKC or HRCH events, such as Agility, Obedience, Scent Work, etc. You may also include service awards, therapy work, and anything else that you feel makes the dog worthy of a lifetime achievement award.
5. Nominations will be rated subjectively, without points assigned for various categories of achievement. However, evaluators voting on dogs must take into consideration the hierarchy of achievements outlined above by placing more value on individual field achievements first, by breeding achievements second, and by other considerations third. Since the ETRC is a retriever club, it is entirely possible for a dog to win this award who was outstanding in the field but never had offspring or earned a non-field title. It should not be possible for a dog to achieve this title without having reasonable accomplishments in the field.
6. The Board of Directors may decide not to award this title during any particular year if no dogs are nominated, or if none of the nominated dogs seem to possess a record worthy of a Lifetime Achievement Award. Decisions by the Board of Directors are final.

7. Winners will be announced at the annual Awards Banquet in February. Names and pictures, along with information on the dog's achievements, will be published in the March Newsletter and posted on the ETRC Website and Facebook page. The winning dog's name and owner will be engraved on a perpetual trophy and the owner will also be provided with a small trophy/plaque to keep.
8. These rules and regulations are to be posted permanently on the ETRC Website. A copy of them will be published in the December 2023 Club newsletter, and annually thereafter. However, publication of a link to the rules on the club website will be considered sufficient after the first year, at the newsletter editor's discretion. Any changes to the rules will be published in the club newsletter and posted on the website.
9. Chuck Atchley, to whom this award is dedicated, is a Charter Member of the ETRC which was formed in 1986. He actively trained and ran several Labrador Retrievers to titles over a number of years. He served as Treasurer from 1996 - 2015 and continues to be a faithful member. During some of our leaner periods, he personally bailed us out so we could continue operating until our financial situation improved. We have benefited from using his beautiful farm countless times for training and Club Trials. On his retirement as Treasurer in February 2015, ETRC awarded Chuck a Special Platinum Award for Outstanding Service. His lifetime achievements for our club make his name a worthy one for recognizing some of the Club's su-



Chuck Atchley, Feb. 2014

Prompt Treatment For Blastomycosis In Dogs Is Key To Recovery —Reprinted from Purina Pro Club

“This is a special dog,” says Fred Kampo of Oshkosh, Wisconsin, referring to the black Labrador Retriever he calls “Stinger.”

While everyone likes to think his or her retriever is special, Kampo’s perspective is broader than most. A member of the Retriever Field Trial Hall of Fame, inducted in 2012, Kampo is president of The Labrador Retriever Club, the American Kennel Club parent club of the Labrador Retriever.

Last summer, FC-AFC B Bumble was on a serious roll. In June, the 6-year-old male, who had earned more points over the course of his career than any retriever his age or younger actively competing in field trials, churned through 10 grueling series to become one of 13 finalists from a starting field of 110 at the National Amateur Retriever Championship in Stowe, Vermont. A few weeks later in mid-July, Stinger topped a field of 82 in a hotly contested open all-age stake at the Mississippi Headwaters Retriever Club in Bemidji, Minnesota.

Two days after that impressive win – two days — this elite canine athlete could barely walk. Stinger was diagnosed with blastomycosis, a fungal infection that can occur systemically or locally, laying even the most robustly healthy dog low and sometimes with devastating, even deadly, consequences.

“The lameness was his first symptom,” says Kampo, who’s handled Stinger to the majority of his field trial wins. “There’d been no coughing or respiratory difficulty of any kind, which I’m told is typically the first sign a dog may have ‘blasto.’”

In Stinger’s case, the disease had attacked several of his vertebrae, and because his spinal cord was at risk, all off-lead activities were immediately curtailed. Crate confinement and walking on leash became the order of the day for the next five months.

Following an initial 10-day period in which he received the fungicidal drug itraconazole (ITZ) intravenously, Stinger was put on a daily oral dosage of ITZ. It had been a frighteningly swift fall from the top of the field trial world, but it could have been much worse.

Triggered by a Wet Environment

Blastomycosis is caused by a fungal mold, *Blastomyces dermatitidis*, associated with moist, slightly acidic soil and decomposing organic matter, such as wood and leaves. The mold releases microscopic spores into the air, and when these spores are inhaled, infection can result.

“When the spores get way down into the lungs is when it creates a problem,” says Alfred M. Legendre, DVM, DACVIM, an infectious disease specialist at the University of Tennessee College of Veterinary Medicine.

The warm, moist environment of a dog’s lungs triggers a transformation of the spores into a yeast that can spread via the bloodstream or the lymphatic system to other parts of the body. Although rare, blastomycosis also can occur when spores are introduced to an open wound.

“*Blastomyces* is a pretty big organism in yeast form,” explains Dr. Legendre. “The yeast is too big to get down deep into the lungs to cause disease.”

Blastomycosis, Continued

The condition is not contagious. “It doesn’t spread dog to dog, or dog to person,” Dr. Legendre says. “When dogs and their owners have simultaneously developed blasto, it is because they were exposed to the spores at the same time.”

Dogs and humans are the most commonly infected species, with dogs 10 times more likely to develop the disease than humans. Geographically, blastomycosis is most prevalent in the valleys of the Mississippi, Ohio and St. Lawrence rivers, the Great Lakes states and certain parts of Canada. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Wisconsin has the highest reported incidence of blastomycosis for humans, with rates in some northern counties 10 to 20 times above the national average.

In the case of a dog like Stinger, who’s traveled all over the country to compete in field trials, it’s hard to know precisely where or when he contracted the infection, especially since signs of the disease may not occur for weeks or months. Coincidentally, Kampo has a cottage in northern Wisconsin to which he often takes Stinger.

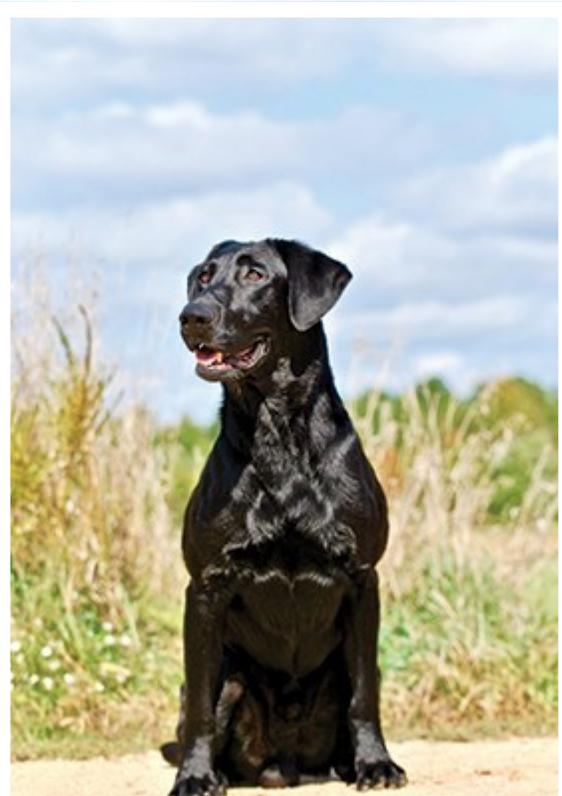
Exposure to areas that have been recently excavated has been shown to increase the risk of blasto in humans, presumably because it liberates large quantities of spores into the air, but the real risk of blastomycosis is proximity to water or moisture. Multiple studies have shown that dogs living within 400 meters of water are vastly more likely to develop blastomycosis than other dogs. Indeed, there’s some evidence to suggest that the shores of beaver ponds tend to be blasto “hotspots,” or what epidemiologists call “enzootic areas.”

Regardless, the *Blastomyces* organism flourishes only under certain environmental conditions. This helps explain why dogs such as retrievers and other hunting dogs that spend a lot of time outdoors are more susceptible to blastomycosis than those that are largely indoor dogs.

Statistically, males are slightly more likely to develop blasto than females, with peak susceptibility to the disease occurring at 2 years of age. Although there’s some indication that dogs may be able to recover spontaneously without treatment from mild cases of the affliction, this has not been established as a fact, says Dr. Legendre.

Early Diagnosis & Treatment Are Key

A dog exhibiting clinical signs of blastomycosis requires immediate veterinary attention. A confirmed diagnosis should be treated promptly and aggressively to increase the likelihood of a full recovery. There’s no “wait and see” with blasto because no matter how mild the signs may be, the disease has life-threatening potential and thus should be taken seriously.

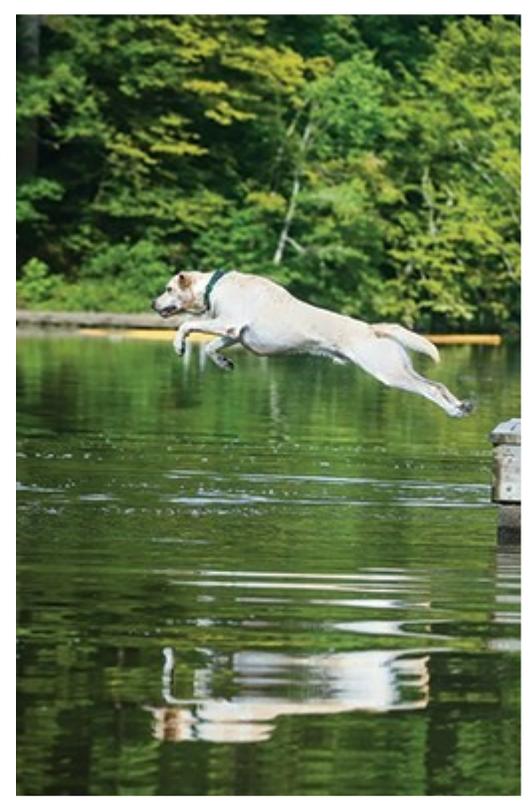


The first thing most owners notice in dogs infected with blasto is that they begin breathing “hard,” as if they’re having difficulty getting air into their lungs. This labored respiration is typically accompanied by dry, raspy chest sounds and sometimes by intermittent coughing. Many

Blastomycosis, con't.

owners also notice a decline in their dog's energy and stamina levels.

Other clinical signs of blastomycosis include limping or lameness; "oozy" skin lesions on the nose, mouth or paw pads, though other areas can be affected as well; inflamed eyes; and enlarged lymph nodes. The challenge for veterinarians to diagnose the disease is that other conditions can produce similar signs. In areas where there is not a lot of blasto, the disease may not be on a veterinarian's radar.



"People who travel to hunt or compete with their retriever and recognize any of these signs should tell their veterinarian where they've been," Dr. Legendre advises. "If you live in Kansas but you've hunted in Wisconsin, your veterinarian needs to know."

Diagnosis of blastomycosis is made from blood testing combined with a biopsy to identify the organism. A more recently developed urine antigen test has been successful in detecting extremely low levels of an infection. Once a definitive diagnosis of blastomycosis has been made, treatment with anti-fungal drugs should start immediately.

The standard fungicide used to treat blasto is itraconazole, though fluconazole can be used as well. The disadvantage of ITZ is that it ranges from \$8 to \$12 per tablet, with a Labrador-sized dog typically requiring two or three doses a day for at least 90 days. Fluconazole is less expensive but not as effective, requiring a longer period of administration to achieve the same result.

If treated promptly after an infection occurs, about 70 to 75 percent of dogs recover. About 20 to 25 percent of dogs experience a relapse, typically with-

in six months of the completion of antifungal therapy. Thus, periodic evaluations are recommended after an infection to be sure the condition has resolved.

"The actual percentage of relapse could be lower," says Dr. Legendre. "This is because the urine antigen test is capable of detecting much lower levels of infection than was previously possible. Instead of stopping treatment when a dog is symptom-free, veterinarians now are able to continue treatment until the patient is truly infection-free. Most dogs do quite well with treatment. They can be expected to make a full recovery and return to doing all the things they did prior to the onset of symptoms."

The exceptions, he notes, are dogs in which blastomycosis has spread to the brain — they usually succumb to the disease, unfortunately — and dogs with severe lung involvement. In these cases, the fungicide can trigger an inflammatory response when the blasto yeast die off, making the initial days of treatment a critical period.

"Most dogs with a severe lung infection from blasto die within the first seven days of treatment," Dr. Legendre says. "If they're able to survive long enough to get past the pneumonia, their prognosis improves significantly. Some dogs may have decreased lung capacity as the result of scarring, however."

Blastomycosis, Continued

Because blastomycosis is caused by an organism that occurs naturally in the environment, it is virtually impossible to eliminate the risk of infection. Early diagnosis and treatment are key to success.

“You should keep an eye on your dog and be aware of the signs of blastomycosis,” Dr. Legendre says. “If you notice anything that strikes you as suspicious, be sure to take your dog to the veterinarian.”

Back in Stinger’s camp, the mood is upbeat. Last December, he was cleared for limited off-lead activities. “Stinger is looking awfully perky these days,” Kampo says.

The retriever’s prominent field trial record makes him a valuable stud dog, and after a temporary hiatus due to concerns about his spinal health, he’s back to having his semen collected and banked on a regular basis. He’s scheduled for a CT scan to evaluate his spinal condition.

“Stinger’s veterinarians believe he can compete again, and I hope they are correct,” Kampo says.

Recognizing Signs of Blastomycosis

Clinical signs of the fungal infection blastomycosis may occur as early as a few weeks after exposure or may take several months to become evident. Being aware of the signs, particularly if your dog has been in an endemic area, is important in order to start treatment as soon as possible.

- Coughing, labored breathing or respiratory disease
- Fever
- Depression or change in performance and drive
- Limping or lameness
- Skin lesions on the nose, mouth or paw pads, with or without draining
- Inflamed eyes
- Enlarged lymph nodes
- Swollen and painful joints
- Multiple skin lesions with or without draining tracts

blasto lesion on a dog’s paw.



Update: Master National News

Congratulations and best wishes to ETRC Members who are at the Master national this month in Thomasville, GA along with more than 1100 other dogs:

- ◆ McCoy’s Precious Gem Of The South MH, owned by Luke McCoy & handled by Brian Caldwell
- ◆ CrossPointe's Blindside Blitz MH, owned by Noah and Rhey Houston, handled by Brian Caldwell
- ◆ L7troublesomewhataboutbob MH , owned by Bob Smith & handled by Brian Caldwell
- ◆ Tennessee Cinnamon Fireball MH, owned & handled by Alan Bruhin
- ◆ RSR's Double J MH , owned by Jeremy Majors, handled by Brian Caldwell or Jeremy Majors

Pass or not, just getting there is a huge accomplishment for the dog, owners, and handlers! You can check out their progress on the MN Blog here: <https://masternational.org/callbacks/>. All our local dogs are in Flight D.

Youth Program



The Luthenauer Young Handler program was established as a memorial to ETRC member Kevin Luthenauer. The program is supported by generous contributions from family and friends to encourage youth participation in retriever sports. Kids who are interested in applying are encouraged to join; check out the website for rules and an application form at http://www.etrclub.org/etrclub_youth_program.htm.

There is no application fee; if the applicant is not already part of a family membership, their membership fee will be paid for by the Luthenauer fund. The program will reimburse AKC Hunt test fees and any fees for other ETRC events such as club trials.

Yearly awards include a perpetual trophy along with a plaque to keep, and participation awards for everyone in the program.

ETRC Membership Information

Membership in ETRC is a bargain! The cost is \$25 for a single person or a family (one vote). Both new member and renewal forms are available online at <http://www.etrclub.org/join.htm> — just cut and paste the link, print it off, and send it along with your check to:

Karen Edwards, Secretary /Treasurer, 254 Babbs Road, Lenoir City, TN 37771.

Membership includes electronic copies of the newsletter, special announcements, eligibility to attend all ETRC Sponsored events, and consideration for end of the year awards. Don't miss out on the opportunity to make friends with like-minded dog people and learn more about our favorite sport. We are one of the most active Retriever clubs in the country — and have another great year ongoing in 2023 with 6 AKC hunt tests, club trials, seminars, training days, and more.

The membership year runs from March 1 to February 28/29th; people who join after November 1 are also paid up for the following year.

Newsletter / Facebook Info

NEWSLETTER: The ETRC newsletter is published monthly, usually on the 1st of the month. Send us your test results, new titles, litter info, new dogs, dog-related jobs, items and services, death notices, interesting articles, and any brags you care to share, along with pictures! Deadline is the 26th of the month but we can sometimes sneak something in a little late... Send items to: Karen Edwards (edwardskc@gmail.com).

Numbering System: beginning with the January 2020 issue, the volume number is the last two digits of the year, in Roman numeral format — so this is Volume XXIII (for 2023). Newsletters are archived on the club Website, www.etrclub.org.

FACEBOOK: we now have a Facebook page! Either post on it yourself, or send pics and info to our moderator, Alan Bruhin, at wbruhin1@retiree.utk.edu.