



# Santa Ana Valley Kennel Club

*Not My Breed. Not Your Breed. All Breeds.*

## THE SOMBRERO

April 2016

Table of Contents

### In This Issue

[Club Business & Announcements](#)

[Meeting Information](#)

[SAVKC Officers & Board](#)

[Unitel Airlines Bringing Comfort Dogs](#)

[Santa Ana Valley Kennel Club Los Alamitos Racetrack Meet u](#)

[Stay in touch with your club](#)

[Braggs](#)

[From the Editor](#)

Club Business & Announcements

## REMINDER

Our next *General meeting* is

April 12, 2016

7:00 PM

at

Hemopet

11561 Salinaz Avenue

Garden Grove, CA 92643

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Keep an eye on the Sombrero for details on our  
upcoming programs:

Bloat

OC Dog Clubs Mixer

Police Dog Demo

Just to name a few.

Welcome to our newest member :  
Doris Engbertson

Meeting Minutes for both the Board and General Membership meetings are chronologically filed on our website.

**SAVKC's 2015-2016 Officers & Board**

**Officers**

- President.....Dean Langwiser
- Vice President.....Jill Dominguez
- Secretary.....Tammy Porter
- Treasurer .....Jolene Hicks
- AKC Delegate.....Keith Hicks

**Board of Directors**

- Awards & Programs.....Chris Porter
- Communications.....Patty Rusko
- Legislation.....TBD
- Membership.....Burk Hughes
- Performance.....Jill Hart

**Sunshine Person**

Open

**Sergeant of Arms**

Keith Hicks

**Breeder Referral Contact**

Vivian Brown

**Website**

Jill Dominguez

**Newsletter**

Tammy Porter

**Publicity**

Jill Dominguez

**2016 Show Chair**

Joe Berkau

# Canine Anesthesia: Special Considerations Based on Breed, Size, and Conformation

Posted By Nancy Kay D.V.M

In [Canine Health](#)

While it's true that Yorkshire Terriers and Great Danes are members of the same species, they are hardly alike when it comes to anesthesia. There is no one size fits all anesthetic protocol for dogs, and veterinarians must amend what they do based on their patient's breed, size, and conformation.

## Universal anesthetic strategies

While it's important to individuate anesthetic protocols, there are some universal strategies that, with rare exception, should apply to all dogs undergoing anesthesia. They include the following:

- Performing pre-anesthetic physical examination and blood testing are important to minimize the potential for surprises after the patient is already under anesthesia. Blood test results ensure that the liver and kidneys (the organs responsible for clearing anesthetic drugs from the body) are functioning up to snuff.
- Placement of an intravenous catheter allows instant access to the bloodstream for administration of intravenous fluids as well as blood products and medications should an urgent need arise.
- Continuous monitoring of vital parameters including heart rate, respiratory rate, body temperature, blood pressure, and oxygenation provides early indicators of abnormalities. This allows for prompt and early intervention should a problem arise. The person monitoring anesthesia should ideally be dedicated to this task and this task alone.

## Customized anesthetic strategies

Breed, size, and conformation all influence how veterinarians choose to safely transport their

canine patients through general anesthesia. Specific examples are provided below.

### **Brachycephalic breeds**

Nothing challenges a successful anesthetic outcome quite like the conformational modifications associated with brachycephalic breeds. In Greek, "brachy" means short and "cephalic" refers to head. Over time, breeders have developed a number of "short-headed" (what I lovingly refer to as smooch faced) breeds such as Pugs, Pekingese, Boston Terriers, Shih Tzus, and several varieties of Bulldogs.

Brachycephalic dogs are genetically programmed to have narrowing of the upper airway passages including the nostrils, nasal cavities, throat, trachea (windpipe), and larynx (the opening to the trachea). Additionally, brachycephalics often come with an elongated soft palate that hangs down over the larynx, blocking airflow in and out of the trachea. These inherited respiratory tract abnormalities are generically referred to as "brachycephalic syndrome."

The elongated soft palate and narrowed larynx and trachea can complicate placement of an endotracheal tube, the breathing tube that is placed immediately after the dog has been anesthetized and then remains in the trachea during anesthesia. This tube provides oxygen and anesthetic gas to the dog. The size of the breathing tube that actually fits may be considerably smaller than is ideally suited to the size of the dog. This can compromise delivery of anesthesia and adequate exchange of respiratory gasses.

The elongated soft palate along with the "meatier" tissue in the throat of brachycephalic breeds make these dogs far more susceptible to airway obstruction and aspiration pneumonia (inhalation of vomited or regurgitated material into the lungs) during the recovery period from anesthesia. Either one of these events can be life threatening.

### **When working with a brachycephalic dog, it makes good sense to:**

Provide at least a few minutes of preoxygenation (oxygen delivery via a mask that fits over the face) before the dog is anesthetized. This will be beneficial if it takes longer than normal to place the endotracheal tube.

Have several different size endotracheal tubes in the ready. Until the dog is anesthetized and the diameter of the larynx and trachea are assessed, the size of breathing tube that will fit is anyone's guess.

Leave the endotracheal tube in place as long as possible when the dog is recovering from anesthesia in order to help prevent airway obstruction and aspiration pneumonia.

Be prepared to provide oxygen via mask after the endotracheal tube has been removed.

Watch the dog like a hawk until recovery from anesthesia is 100 percent complete. Only a few seconds are required for a brachycephalic breed to get into serious trouble during the anesthetic recovery period.

### **Greyhounds and possibly other sighthounds**

Greyhounds are known to have prolonged recoveries following anesthesia with thiopental, a drug that is no longer available in the United States. The prolonged recovery is caused by a deficiency of a specific liver enzyme responsible for metabolizing this drug for removal from the body. This same liver enzyme abnormality can cause Greyhounds to experience prolonged recovery periods following anesthesia with propofol, a drug commonly used in the United States (think Michael Jackson here). It is presumed, but not necessarily proven, that other sighthounds such as Afghans, Whippets, Deerhounds, Wolfhounds, and Borzois may share this anesthetic idiosyncrasy.

Many anesthetic drugs are "lipophilic", meaning they are attracted to fat tissues. The very lean, muscular conformation of most sighthounds may limit normal uptake of these fat-seeking anesthetic drugs. Less drug taken up by the tissues means more drug in the bloodstream, and it is the amount in the bloodstream that dictates the level of anesthesia. This may help explain why lower anesthetic drug dosages are better tolerated by many sighthounds.

### **When working with a Greyhound or other sighthound, it makes good sense to:**

Administer an injectable anesthetic drug dose that is less than what would normally be used based on the dog's body weight.

Administer plenty of intravenous fluids before, during, and after anesthesia to help clear anesthetic drugs from the dog's system.

Be hyper-vigilant about monitoring anesthesia.

Be prepared for prolonged anesthetic recovery times. Have appropriate staff available and schedule anesthetic procedures for earlier rather than later in the day.

### **Herding breeds**

Many herding breed puppies such as Collies, Australian Shepherds, Old English Sheepdogs,

and Shetland Sheepdogs, are born with a mutation of the multidrug resistance (MDR1) gene. The MDR1 gene is responsible for effectively processing a number of drugs in the body. Mutation of this gene allows the abnormal accumulation of certain drugs within the central nervous system. The "poster child drug" that is problematic for dogs with the MDR1 mutation is ivermectin, a medication used to treat and prevent parasites. Acepromazine and butorphanol are two drugs commonly used in canine anesthetic protocols. They are reported to cause prolonged or excessive sedation in dogs with the MDR1 mutation.

**When anesthetizing a herding breed dog, it makes good sense to:**

Find out if the dog has been tested for the MDR1 mutation. The results can help guide the anesthetic protocol.

If using butorphanol and/or acepromazine, lower the dosage and proceed with caution.

**Breeds susceptible to cardiomyopathy**

Boxers, Doberman Pinschers, Irish Wolfhounds, Cocker Spaniels, and Great Danes are some of the breeds predisposed to cardiomyopathy, a disease of the heart muscle. For some dogs with cardiomyopathy, the very first evidence is an abnormal heart rhythm (arrhythmia) that is so mild it causes no overt symptoms. Anesthesia can cause this mild arrhythmia to become far more significant and potentially even life threatening.

**When anesthetizing a dog that is a breed susceptible to cardiomyopathy, it makes good sense to:**

Run an electrocardiogram (ECG) to assess the heart rhythm as part of the preanesthetic screening process.

Run a continuous ECG during anesthesia as well as throughout the recovery process.

Have appropriate antiarrhythmic drugs in the ready, should a problem arise.

**Toy and tiny breeds**

Really small dogs can be challenging to safely anesthetize for a few reasons. It can be tough to successfully place an intravenous catheter in those tiny little legs. And if those tiny little legs are attached to a wiggler or a biter, the challenge becomes even greater.



Compared to their larger counterparts, little dogs are more susceptible to hypothermia (decrease in body temperature). Dropping a degree or two during anesthesia is normal, but, given the opportunity, tiny dogs will drop five degrees or more. This level of hypothermia can cause all sorts of other problems.

Additionally, small dogs are more prone to developing hypoglycemia (low blood sugar) while under anesthesia. This can result in weakness and neurological symptoms, from muscle tremors to seizures.

Lastly, when tiny patients are undergoing surgery, they are usually covered from head to toe with surgical drapes. This makes it difficult for the person who is monitoring anesthesia to gain access to their patient's body parts to accomplish things such as adjusting monitoring probes, taking body temperature, and giving injections through the intravenous catheter.

### **When anesthetizing a tiny breed, it makes good sense to:**

Use sedation and/or local anesthesia for intravenous catheter placement.

Use appropriate heating devices during anesthesia and the recovery period.

Use warmed intravenous fluids rather than those that are cold or at room temperature.

Consider the addition of dextrose (sugar) to the intravenous fluids.

Monitor body temperature frequently.

Monitor blood sugar levels before, during, and following anesthesia.

Find creative ways to allow the person monitoring anesthesia to gain access to the patient under all those surgical drapes.

### **Giant breeds**

In general, anesthetic drug dosages are calculated based on the patient's body weight. For giant breeds such as Great Danes, Mastiffs, and Wolfhounds, a drug dose based on body weight ends up being too much. This is because the way drugs are cleared from the body has more to do with the animal's body surface area than its body weight. Giant breeds have a smaller surface area to body weight ratio compared to smaller dogs.

Additionally, the aging process in giant breed dogs is accelerated. Whereas a seven-year-old Sheltie is middle aged, a seven-year-old Saint Bernard has already reached senior citizen status, and seniors are at greater risk with general anesthesia.

**When anesthetizing a giant breed of dog it makes good sense to:**

Begin with lower drug dosages than would be calculated based on body weight.

Ensure adequate staff to safely move and position a very heavy anesthetized dog.

Carefully consider the age of the dog when calculating drug dosages.



# WHEN YOUR GUARD DOG IS A



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## New Point Schedule

Click [here](#) for the AKC's new point schedule effective May 11, 2016

## Club T Shirts

We recently had some awesome club t shirts made. They are available at our meetings and events. Please check them out, there is a limited supply.

## Fast Cat Becomes Newest AKC Event

Fast CAT, a timed 100-yard dash where a dog chases a lure, is the newest [AKC event](#). The event is a fun and healthy activity for dogs and their owners, and is open to dogs that are at least 12 months of age and are individually registered or listed with the AKC.

In competition, the dogs run one at a time over a straight 100-yard course. Their times are then converted into miles per hour and used as part of a handicap system to assign points earned, which will be used to determine titles and standings. [More information on the rules can be found here](#).

"The popularity of the coursing ability test demonstrates the enthusiasm of a dog when their inner instinct is awakened," says Doug Ljungren, Vice President for Sports & Events at AKC. "Now that same enthusiasm can be timed to determine how fast your dog can run. Who knows, you may have a national caliber track star sitting next to you. The national rankings by breed will show how your dog compares."

## Once upon a time...

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**Once upon a time, poodles raced in the Iditarod. They weren't half bad.**



John Suter with a team of standard poodles, when he first started racing the breed in the mid-1970s. (Courtesy of John Suter)

Maybe it was his California upbringing. Perhaps it was his bent for seeing a joke in just about anything. For whatever reason, when Alaska transplant John Suter saw a miniature poodle eagerly running to keep up with his snowmobile, an improbable thought occurred to him: Now there's a sled dog.

It was the 1970s, and the military duty that had brought Suter to Alaska, where he was a member of an army biathlon team, was over. The poodle idea gripped him. Soon, he was back in California, buying standard poodles - the big ones, because even Suter wasn't quixotic enough to use miniatures - and transporting them north to build a dog-sledding team.

"No one ever did poodles before," Suter, 66, said in an interview this week from his home in Chugiak, Alaska. "I thought maybe we could get something going."

He did. By 1991, Suter had raced poofy poodles in hundreds of dog-sledding competitions, appeared on The Tonight Show with Johnny Carson - and four times completed the Iditarod with part-poodle teams. They didn't do half badly, finishing in the lower middle of the pack and earning an eternal spot in Iditarod trivia books.





# Tips for Success with Fresh, Chilled Semen Breedings

Artificial insemination has been done for many years, but the ability to freeze semen and chill and ship semen has dramatically changed the ability to do planned breedings with incredible success. Vaginal, transcervical, and surgical inseminations are now the norm for many kennels, and it is now possible to successfully breed with semen from almost anywhere in the world reducing stress for the bitch and travel costs for the breeder.

Dr. William Schultz, a well-recognized expert in canine reproduction and member of The Society for Theriogenology, shares tips for success with fresh, chilled semen breedings.

## Environment Of The Collection Area

In our clinic, we collect in the same exam room so that the stud will become familiar with this room. We do not vaccinate or do other procedures with studs in this room. The stud is brought in the room and allowed time to acclimate and sniff around. Large breeds are collected on the floor and smaller breeds are collected on the examination table.

In a kennel, the collection area should be isolated as much as possible - sometimes a quiet store room area can be used. Keeping the outside distractions to a minimum is always helpful.

We use a disposable artificial vagina for the collection. These are cone shaped with the end cut off to allow the placement of a 15-milliliter centrifuge tube. The tubes may be changed during the collection to separate the semen fractions. The wide end of the cone may be folded to the outside to adjust the length to accommodate different size stud dogs.

A teaser bitch is extremely important and in some males she may need to be in full standing heat. We have had inexperienced males not release sperm rich fraction without a standing teaser. This may lead to an incorrect diagnosis of infertility.

Avoid wearing white coats, and act relaxed, friendly, and non-threatening. The collection may be performed on the floor or on a table, depending on what the stud is used to. If there is a particular item that the stud associates with breeding, such as a rug or breeding rack, have the owner bring it along.

All equipment must be at room temperature. Use disposable artificial vaginas attached

to 15-milliliter centrifuge tubes with docking rings. Fold the large end of the artificial vagina inside out, about 1 inch for large dogs (larger than 40 pounds) and 3-4 inches for small dogs (smaller than 40 pounds). The use of a lubricant is not recommended, as it is rarely necessary and many are spermicidal. Have three to five additional disposable artificial vaginas at hand.

To provide adequate footing for the stud, place a rubber-backed mat or a piece of carpet on the floor or table.

## Using A Teaser Bitch

In almost all cases, the teaser will significantly increase the ease of collection and the volume of the collection. It is the single sperm that completes the insemination but it takes millions to billions of sperm to get to that point.

If no teaser is available, use swabs that were used for vaginal cytology in previous bitches. We keep the swabs in a baggie in the refrigerator and allow the male to sniff the swabs. If a bitch is used that is not in heat, the swabs may be rubbed near her anal and vulvar area simulating a bitch in heat. It is important to closely control the non-cycling bitch because she may become very aggressive if male tries to mounts her.

If at all possible, have an estrus teaser bitch available that is approximately the same size as the stud dog. A handler or technician should be available to support the bitch in a standing position and restrain her if necessary. If that is not possible, use an anestrous bitch, restrained in standing position. It may be useful to keep some swabs of estrus vaginal secretions frozen. Thaw these by dipping them in warm water, and then wipe them on the vulva of a teaser not in season.

Often, 30 to 50 percent more sperm cells will be released when a suitable teaser is used. Many dogs may have semen collected without a teaser bitch, but semen quality is generally better when an estrus teaser bitch is present and the stud's libido is highest. An alternate training tool is a pheromone such as [Eau d' Estrus](#).

The male is allowed to acclimate and to interact with the teaser before any attempt is made at collecting. The least number of owners and assistants in the room is also necessary to decrease the level of distraction. However, a good stud dog will not be bothered as long as a teaser is present.

When performing semen collections, take care to make the stud dog feel as comfortable as possible.

## Properly Collecting Semen

Taking the male for a walk and allowing him to urinate before the collection is helpful. This should be done completely away from the teaser if possible.

With the bitch in position, bring the stud into the room. Allow him to familiarize himself with his surroundings, with the bitch, and with you.

If the teaser is not to be bred, be careful at this time that he does not rapidly mount

and tie the bitch.

I sit in a low chair to allow rapid movement while the stud is allowed to mount the bitch. Being just to the side of the stud will allow for movement of the stud and still remain close enough to use the artificial vagina for the collection. It is important to have enough room to allow the stud to mount and then dismount during the collection. Allow the male to mount. As he begins to thrust, gently massage the preputial sheath with one hand. If the male shows little interest in the bitch and does not mount, you may massage the sheath to stimulate an erection.

As erection occurs, pull the sheath behind the bulbus glandis. At the same time, with the other hand, slip the artificial vagina over the penis to just below the bulbus glandis. Be careful when reflecting the sheath that the male does not have the bulbus glandis engorged. It is very painful, if not impossible, to reflect the sheath after the bulbus glandis has engorged. If needed the male may be removed from the room and walked until the bulbus glandis has gone down and then attempt the collection again. In some very aggressive studs, it may be necessary to collect the sample with the sheath partially covering the bulbus glandis.

Reposition your hands providing gentle but constant pressure just proximal to and incorporating the bulbus glandis. You may stimulate the penis caudal to the bulbus glandis with your other hand.

Most dogs will thrust initially, coinciding with the penetration. They achieve full erection coinciding with the "tie," and will try to step over the bitch and your arm. You may help the stud by lifting his leg over your arm and turning his penis 180 degrees, so it is directed backwards between his legs.

You should be able to visualize the semen as it flows into the clear tube. Most dogs ejaculate in three fractions: an initial clear or slightly cloudy pre-ejaculate fraction, the sperm-rich fraction (SRF), and a clear fraction of prostatic fluid. The initial clear fraction is released during the period of vigorous thrusting. The SRF should appear as a thick, white, creamy liquid, which is usually released just as vigorous thrusting stops and the stud steps over. In some studs the SRF maybe thin white and the volume may vary from ½ to 10 cubic centimeters. The clear prostatic fluid follows in varying amounts. When the SRF has been released and the first prostatic fluid is noted the collection is stopped.

Switch tubes attached to the artificial vagina during the collection to separate the fractions. If no centrifuge is available it is important to separate the fractions. After microscopic evaluation, the contents of tubes changed too early may be combined, if appropriate. Make sure you have collected the entire SRF before stopping. It is not necessary to collect the entire third fraction; save just enough to evaluate for abnormal cells, bacteria, etc.

It is very important to make sure the erection has subsided after the collection. In the winter frostbite is possible, and the male should never be allowed outside on cold days when the erection is present. Walking the stud after the collection will decrease the time needed to lose the erection. If the penis appears dry, you may apply a sterile lubricant at this stage. Make sure the penis is fully retracted into the sheath before

putting the dog into a cage or with other dogs.

## Storing And Chilling Semen

If the fresh semen is not to be used for several days it may be centrifuged with [Semen Separating Solution and extended with Fresh Express Extender](#). The extended semen is labeled and put in a beaker with water and placed in a 40-degree Fahrenheit refrigerator. The purpose of the water bath is to keep the sample from rapid warming and chilling if the refrigerator is opened. Our refrigerator is at a constant 40 degrees while most refrigerators turn on and off with a 5-to-8-degree temperature variation. Using this method, we have successfully stored semen over three weeks for a breeding. The semen is checked every two to three days and the extender is changed as necessary to keep motility at the best level possible.

## When Should Insemination Be Performed?

Once the LH surge has been identified in the bitch, count forward to determine the fertile period. The day of the LH surge is designated as day zero. Days 4-7 after the LH surge encompass the true fertile period, with peak fertility on days 5 and 6. We do vaginal or transcervical breedings on days 3 and 5 after the progesterone rise or LH surge, with frozen semen breedings on day 5.

Breedings dates may vary with the reproduction vet being used for the breeding. The probability of successful fertilization is optimized by properly planning inseminations.

*Dr. Schultz is a well-recognized expert in canine reproduction. He received his DVM from Michigan State University in 1973, went into private practice and opened his companion animal practice in the fall of 1974. He is a member of The Society for Theriogenology and The Theriogenology Foundation, and is a frequent speaker at veterinary conferences, veterinary associations and national specialties.*

*This is an advertorial sponsored by Zoetis.*

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## Stay In Touch With Your Club

Santa Ana Valley Kennel Club's Website....For club news and archives

<http://www.savkc.org/>

## Core Conditioning for your Dog

# Core Conditioning for Your Dog

Posted By Brian Lynn

In [Canine Health](#)

While attending the Purina Sporting Dog Summit, several experts gave advice on ways to keep your dogs healthy and injury free. [Jennell Appel](#), DVM, CCRT; [James L. Cook](#), DVM, PhD, DACVS, DACVSMR Purina's [Arleigh Reynolds](#), DVM, PhD, DACVN all stressed the importance of warming a dog up prior to competition/hunting/exercise and then cooling down afterwards. They also stressed cross-training conditioning - swimming, running, strength training, balance and more - with the thought that a well-rounded and conditioned dog is less likely to undergo a serious injury.

During Dr. Cook's seminar, he mentioned core conditioning. Puppy Pilates, if you will. Like humans, a strong provides a strong foundation for the rest of the body and keeps in aligned. A few simple daily exercises with your dog can help your dog maintain flexibility and strengthen its core, which can reduce the chance of injury. These are exercises that can be done from puppyhood throughout life.

**Nose to butt:** With your dog sitting, use a treat to get him to twist his head towards his seated back end on each side. The dog must remain seated during this exercise. The goal is to turn the trunk of the body, stretching the off side and contracting the muscles of the flexing side. You just go back and forth with your hand to get the dog to turn that direction. At first it's just the dog turning and reaching back there while maintaining a sit position, and then you gradually increase the time he must hold it.

**Leg lifts:** To help with balance lift one of your dog's legs so it's standing on the other three. Rotate around the dog, lifting each leg in turn. Hold the leg aloft for 5 to 10 seconds and do 10 to 20 repetitions three or four times a week. This is a great one for puppies - they learn spatial awareness and how their body fits into the world around them, as well as better balance. Both things help reduce injury.

**Weight shifting:** Simply nudging your dog, rocking him back and forth slightly can help build core strength, balance and body control. This isn't a shove; it's gentle press against one side so the dog rocks away and compensates for the action by pushing back. Do it on all sides and front and back, if you can. Have the dog put its front feet up on a step to take it to the next level.

**Leash walking:** The most important exercise that you can for both physical and psychological exercise. It teaches obedience and, once learned, gives the dog a time to mentally relax and feel confident in his position - it's important psychologically for the same reason.

**Hill work:** Walk or trot your dog in big figure eight on a hillside; the slope and turning of the body in both directions works the core, balance and weight shifting. Make smaller and smaller figure eights to exaggerate the efforts - you can even have the dog

perform them between and around your legs for a great core-stabilizing exercise.

**Cavaletti's:** The old football drill of stepping through a row of tires with each foot quickly has been adapted for dogs, only instead of tires, the dogs step over obstacles. These aren't high obstacles (which can consist of knee-high or lower broom sticks, string, etc.), but rather just high enough to get them to lift all four legs; it's the stepping over action that's important. Begin with your obstacle course step-overs two full stride lengths apart and then cut it down to one stride as the dog understands the concept. Eventually you can get it to a half-stride and the dog will really have to work all four limbs simultaneously.

**Swimming:** Low impact, resistance exercise that works the entire body, swimming is one of the greatest things you can do with your dog. From core strengthening to warm up and cool down to conditioning and rehabilitation, swimming is an important exercise all dogs should undertake - put a life jacket on your pooch if you must.  
Thanks to Paw Print Genetics

## Brag

There were no brags submitted this month

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Congrats to all of you and those who forgot to brag !

Please remember to send in your brags.  
Each of you and your dog work hard to earn them,  
so why not be proud and share them with your club ?

## From The Editor



Tammy