

Lone Star Mastiff Fanciers

News

Editor: Bonnie Blink

Volume 1 Issue 2

Juliet--a rescued dog tale

by Mandie Martine

In late March 2000, I got a call from Mastiff Rescue. We had a potential girl coming into rescue with some medical problems. It appeared that she had been diagnosed with GI (gastrointestinal) upset for 2-3 months. After being fed bland diets, Juliet still could not hold down food. She was rapidly losing weight. Her owner could no longer afford her vet care and opted to give Juliet up to Mastiff Rescue. Being a registered veterinary technician (and a sucker), I gladly accepted the challenge of fostering Juliet.

Juliet came to a local emergency clinic on March 31, 2000. Her illness was finally diagnosed. Juliet had been regurgitating, not vomiting. It may seem trivial, but it's something that her vet never picked up on, so Juliet was never receiving the proper treatment. Juliet's diagnosis was a megaesophagus. Juliet had a dilated esophagus, not capable of moving food down to her stomach.

Juliet came to my house on April 1, 2000. She was a whopping 85 pounds! She had ulcerations all over her mouth from the acidity. She slept in my kitchen that night and I slept there with her. I woke up every hour and spoon fed Juliet. At this point, she needed every ounce of nutrition she could get. After a few days, she regained some strength. I started training Juliet to eat her food off of the counter, in hopes that gravity would send it down to her stomach.

After attempting to find a cause for the megaesophagus, Juliet was ultimately diagnosed with Idiopathic megaesophagus. Several weeks later, Juliet was finally putting on some weight. She got up to 115 pounds. I started taking Juliet to a local dog bakery, in hopes of finding her a permanent home. Everyone who met her instantly loved her and her positive spirit. Unfortunately, this was a lot to ask anyone to take on. It appeared that Juliet wasn't going anywhere. I had a new mastiff! I decided I'd keep Juliet and give her as good a life as I could. When her condition worsened and she could no longer hold food down, I'd have to do the unselfish act and let her go.

(continued on page 2)

Second Meeting March 22, 2003

The second general membership Club Meeting will be held at 6PM on Saturday, March 22, 2003 at DOS GRINGOS Mexican Restaurant & Cantina, 1015 University Dr, Ft. Worth, Texas 76107 (ph: 817-334-0506). This is another eat and meet.

This meeting will be held in conjunction with the dog shows being held in Ft. Worth the same weekend. Here is the link to the premium list for the Saturday show (Ft. Worth Kennel Club) which includes directions and a map of the show site. <http://www.onofrio.com/plist/ftwo1pl.pdf>

The show is being held at the Will Rogers Memorial Center, 1 Amon Carter Square, 3400 Burnett-Tandy, Ft. Worth, Texas 76107. Directions to the show site are as follows: I-30 East or West exit Montgomery St N to Burnett-Tandy. Turn right on Burnett-Tandy to show building.

From the show site to the restaurant: east on Burnett-Tandy, turn right onto WR Watt Dr, turn left onto Harley Ave, turn left onto University Dr. (restaurant is less than a mile from the show site).

If you have any questions, please email the club email at lsmf@lsmf.com or Bonnie Blink at bonnie.blink@elpaso.com or call Bonnie Blink at 832-277-8700.

NOTE: next meeting in Carlisle, PA at the MCOA National Specialty, May, 2003.

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Megaesophagus

a "did you know?" item

What is Megaesophagus?

The esophagus is the tube that connects the throat to the stomach. Normally, a neurologic reflex causes muscle contraction and relaxation to transport swallowed food into the stomach. With megaesophagus, this reflex is interrupted and the esophagus loses all tone and dilates. Also, the reflex protecting the lung is disrupted and aspiration pneumonia commonly follows.

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Juliet ... (continued)

Juliet did wonderfully for 9 months. In December of 2000, she was unable to keep any food down, even liquid food off the counter. It appeared that her condition was rapidly worsening. I had known this was a possibility. Within just a couple of days, I was faced with the likelihood that I was going to have to let my little girl go. I didn't realize just how much this dog meant to me, until this point. I had nursed her back to health from near death! Initially, I just wanted to make this dog's life better and show her love. But I didn't expect to love her as much as I did.



Juliet's stomach tube

Instead of euthanasia, I opted to have a stomach tube put in Juliet. It was her only hope at life. She had deteriorated again, now weighing 90 pounds. I was afraid I was just being selfish. Her vets thought we would be buying her a few weeks, months at the most.

The day after Juliet's surgery, she was like a totally different dog--a dog I had not known before. She was finally getting complete nutrition. Every bit of her food was being put directly into her stomach, so she was getting every bit of the nutrients. Within a week, I thought my sweet little mastiff baby had turned into a bounding Labrador Retriever!

It is now almost 3 years later and Juliet is doing great!!! No one ever expected her to live this long. She will be 6 years old in April. She still has to eat through her stomach tube, but we have quite a routine down! Juliet has quite her list of medical problems, but all in all, she is one happy dog! Don't tell Juliet she's sick, she has no clue!

She does know that she's a princess though!!!!



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Contribute to the Newsletter

If anyone has articles or pictures they would like to contribute to future newsletters, please email or snail mail to Bonnie Blink.

Contact the Club

President: Courtney Dieckman
1000oaks@centurytel.net
 512-392-0639

Secretary: Bonnie Blink
 31445 Lazy Ridge Rd
 Waller, TX 77484
bonnie.blink@elpaso.com
 832-277-8700 or 936-931-3239

Club email: lsmf@lsmf.com
 Club Web Site: <http://www.lsmf.com>

Officers and board members

President: Courtney Dieckman
 Vice President: Danielle Wisnieski
 Secretary: Bonnie Blink
 Treasurer: Kurt Dieckman

Board Members: Mahlon Walters
 Shere Forkner
 Malinda Martin
 Bruce Roventini
 Kaurie Jones

Upcoming Shows etc.

Mar 15: Houston KC; AB/JSHW; Houston
 Mar 16: Galveston Co KC; AB/JSHW; Houston
 Mar 22: Ft Worth KC; AB/JSHW; Fort Worth
 Mar 23: Texas KC; AB/OB/JSHW; Fort Worth
 Mar 24: Trinity Valley KC; AB/JSHW; Fort Worth
 Mar 29-30: Brazos Valley KC; AB/OB/JSHW; Bryan
 Apr 5-6: San Jacinto KC; AB/OB/JSHW; Crosby
 Apr 12-13: Bee-Tex KC; AB/OB/JSHW; Beeville
 Apr 12-13: Stephenville KC; AB/JSHW; Stephenville
 Apr 19: LSMF Mastiff Fun Match (see article pg 3)
 Apr 26: Beaumont KC; AB/OB/JSHW; Beaumont
 Apr 27: Big Spring KC; AB/OB/JSHW; Big Spring

These are Texas shows. Let me know what others states you would like to see included in this list.

(continued on page 3)



Jessica Watson and Bessie

a non-typical winter day in Burseson, TX (near Dallas)

Submit pictures for the Newsletter to Bonnie Blink via email: bonnie.blink@elpaso.com or via snail mail.

From our President

I would like to begin by first saying thank you to all members that were able to attend our first meeting. It went very well and a lot was accomplished. It was wonderful to see such a big turn out.

We have a lot of work ahead of us and I appreciate all the help and encouragement I've received to make our club a reality.

I hope that by all of us coming together as a club we can be a positive force in improving our breed.

I look forward to seeing you all at the upcoming meeting and of course the MCOA National Specialty Show.

Courtney Dieckman

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Upcoming Shows etc. (continued)

MASTIFF FUN MATCH
SATURDAY, April 19, 2003
 Old Orchard Park
 (Covered Basketball Pavilion)
 Diboll, TX

Conformation
 Obedience (rally, pre-novice, novice, open)
 Junior Showmanship
 Canine Good Citizenship

DIRECTIONS TO MATCH

Take Hwy 59 into Diboll. At second light (from either direction), turn east onto Judd St. (right from south, left from north). Turn right onto Devereaux St. Turn left on Hall St into Old Orchard Park. Cross the one lane bridge and turn left to basketball pavilion. Parking is in front and past the pavilion.

Bring your lawn chairs and plenty of water for your puppies! Limited concessions will be available.

REGISTRATION

Confirmation: 10:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

Judging starts at 11:00 a.m.

Obedience: 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Judging starts 12:30 p.m.

There will be a half hour lunch break from 12:00 – 12:30pm

ENTRY FEES: \$5.00 per dog - NO PRE ENTRIES

Note: no major-pointed dogs and no champions of record may compete in conformation.

For more information contact co-chairs:
 Danielle Wisnieski (281) 232-5474 evenings
 Jennifer Harp (936) 671-3031

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Committees

The following committees were established at the February meeting.

<u>Committee</u>	<u>Chair Person</u>
Rescue	Carol Applegate
Ways and Means	Malinda Martin
Show	Courtney Dieckman
Education	Jessica Watson
Publicity	Danielle Wisnieski
Obedience	Jennifer Harp
Conformation	Bruce Roventini

If you are interested in volunteering to help on any of these committees, please contact the Committee Chair Person or send email to lsmf@lsmf.com and your email will be forwarded to the appropriate person.

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your
article
or
picture
could
be
here!

MCOA National Specialty Show

May 7 – May 11, 2003
Carlisle, PA

For full details about the upcoming specialty, please visit the MCOA website (<http://mastiff.org/shows/specialty.htm>).

Lone Star Mastiff Fanciers, thanks to an anonymous donor, will sponsor one of the \$150 trophies for this year.

Our July meeting will be held at the specialty. The meeting is tentatively planned for Thursday evening, May 8th. More details to follow soon.

We have been invited to participate in a social for regional Mastiff clubs on Thursday evening. Again, thanks to member donations, we will provide beer and chili at no cost to the club.

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The End