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## Tick Paralysis

***With the onset of the warmer weather, here is some timely information for your beloved whippets courtesy of the RSPCA.***

The paralysis tick, *Ixodes holocyclus*, causes tick paralysis. Tick paralysis is a serious and potentially fatal condition requiring urgent veterinary attention.

It is important to be aware of paralysis ticks and to actively protect your dog.

***What are paralysis ticks and how do they cause paralysis?***

Paralysis ticks are dangerous parasites that can attach to

the dog and proceed to suck blood from them. As they suck the blood, they secrete a toxin into the pet. This toxin affects the nervous system leading to a number of symptoms (see below) and potentially death.

***Where are paralysis ticks found?***

The paralysis tick is generally found on the eastern seaboard, from North Queensland down to Victoria. In the north, paralysis ticks may be found all year round, while in the more southern areas, the season generally begins in spring and finishes in late

autumn. Please note that tick season can be variable, starting earlier and ending later, for example, it may start early if the winter is mild.

Ticks can also be found inland in suitable habitats. Paralysis ticks may be found on animals that live in or near bush or scrub land. Native animals such as marsupials, birds and reptiles are the natural hosts, however ticks can also become attached to animals such as dogs and cats.

*(Continued on page 4)*

## Member Profile: The Johnston's Whippet Clan

**By Renée Johnston**

**Food Presenter • Whippet Lover • Graphic Designer • Photographer**

Today is Captain's 10th Birthday so it seems appropriate that I have been asked to reflect on our lives with our four-legged fur babies.

We adopted 'Captain Starlite' 7 years ago when

Ben and I were newly married and not quite ready for two-legged babies. Captain came into our family at three and a half years old and instantly took a liking to me. A little too much liking to me, to the point where he would bark and growl at Ben when he came home from work ...

*(Continued on page 7)*



## Future Newsletters

*If you have something that you would like published in future newsletters, please email content to:*

Yvonne Gibbs  
(dirtypaws11@gmail.com)

## From the President's desk...

Welcome to our first newsletter for the Whippet Club of Qld in recent times.

Since our last AGM we have had no Whippet shows but we had a fun day recently on the 1st December at Spring Hill. I was not able to attend but from all accounts it was a very successful day. Thank you to Sue and Jillian for their excellent efforts with the fun day. Sue has also been very active keeping her eyes out for any Whippets that need new homes. I understand that Jillian has a Whippet that is very talented when it comes to tracking, so maybe we should try and twist her arm to give us a demonstration of another skill that many of us might

not be aware that Whippets have.

We have 2 Open shows in February, and remember that to show at an Open Show the owner does not need to be a member of Dogs Qld, so it is an excellent opportunity to get some of your normally non showing friends to come out and give it a go. We have included the Neuter class which means they can even show their much loved Neutered Whippets.

Next year we are bringing out International Renown Whippet breeder and judge, Mr Ake Cronander from Sweden, and we need to think of some fund raising ideas to boost our bank balance for that. I have made some enquiries about

doing some Bunnings Sausage Sizzles and when I hear more back we will let you know the details.

If any members have any ideas to improve our club in anyway, could they please let me know.

And a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to you all and to your Whippets  
Ian Rasmussen



Happiness is: Owning a Whippet

## A Whippet lover's descent into madness

### Quick Read from Sighthound Review



It all started innocently enough. An acquaintance told me she had a puppy nobody wanted, left over from her litter of Whippets. Is there a heart so cold it doesn't thaw at the thought of a puppy nobody wants?

So I made a mistake: I went to see the unwanted puppy.

She had crooked front legs, an all-white head with no

pigment, and a serious overbite. Who could resist? Certainly not me. I happily shelled out \$250 (what a bargain!) and took my "leftover" Whippet home.

Now, right here I would like to digress. I think some government agency should be looking into the mislabelling of these dogs. Who came up with "Whippet"? They should be called "Cashew" -- do you

know anyone who stops with just one?

Or, on a more ominous note, the name could be "Marijuana," as they lead to other addictions.

Most Whippet owners go on to acquire another Sight hound breed, too. I got into rare Sight hounds, but that's another story. Then I made another mistake -- I thought I might want to show.

*(Continued on page 6)*

# Upcoming Events...

**ENTRIES CLOSE 31 JAN • JUDGING 5.00/7.00PM+**

## **WHIPPET CLUB OF QUEENSLAND TWO OPEN SHOWS**

**Saturday, 22nd February 2014  
CCC Showgrounds, King Avenue, Durack**

**Closing Date:** Friday, 31st January 2014

**Entries to:** Show Secretary,  
Whippet Club of Qld.,  
PO Box 215,  
MT. GRAVATT Qld. 4122

**Enquiries:** Toni McNeill 0439 801 626.  
Show Day Contact  
Nº 0439 801 626.

**Entry Fees:** *Each Show:* \$5.00 per class,  
\$2.00 per S/stakes class. \$2.50  
Catalogue (covers both shows).

### **OPEN SHOW #1**

JUDGE & JUDGING ORDER

**Mr. T. Thomas** All Classes.

**General Specials Judge:**

**Mr. T. Thomas**

**Judging:** Commences at 5.00pm  
with Class 1.

**Classes:** 1(1a), 2(2a), 3(3a), 4(4a), 5(5a),  
10(10a), 11(11a) & Neuter 18(18a).

**Sweepstakes:** Best Veteran.

**Property Classes:** Best Head (dog), Best  
Head (bitch), Best Gait.

### **OPEN SHOW #2**

JUDGE & JUDGING ORDER

**Mr. L. Wright** All Classes.

**General Specials Judge:**

**Mr. L. Wright**

**Judging:** Commences not before 7.00pm  
with Class 1.

**Classes:** 1(1a), 2(2a), 3(3a), 4(4a), 5(5a),  
10(10a), 11(11a) & Neuter 18(18a).

**Sweepstakes:** Best Veteran.

**Property Classes:** Best Head (dog), Best  
Head (bitch), Best Gait.

*(Continued from page 1)*

### **How do I protect my pet?**

A holistic approach is necessary to protect your pet and reduce the risk of tick paralysis.

#### **1. Avoid the tick habitat**

During the tick season, don't take your dog walking in bush areas or scrub areas known to harbor ticks. Keep lawns and shrubs short and remove compost material from backyards.

#### **2. Search pets every day for ticks**

The most essential preventative measure is a thorough search of your dog's skin and coat at least once a day even if tick control products have been applied. This method gives you the best chance of finding a tick.

#### *What do paralysis ticks look like?*

The paralysis tick can look different depending on whether they are engorged with blood or not. When engorged with blood they have a bluish to light-grey/grey colour. Familiarise yourself with their appearance - check at your local vet clinic/vet clinic website, they will usually have posters and photos of paralysis ticks.

Once on the animal, the tick finds a site of attachment where it becomes deeply and firmly embedded in the skin. When an adult tick feeds on blood, it increases in size dramatically (becomes engorged). When a tick attaches to the skin, the area becomes red and a raised thickening or "crater" may appear. A crater is evidence of a prior tick attachment.

#### *How do I search my pet?*

Search pets thoroughly at least once a day, use the fingertips to feel through the animal's coat. Ticks or tick craters can be felt as lumps on the skin surface. Most ticks are found forward of the front legs, especially on the face, neck and ears. However, remember to search the entire pet.

Start at your pet's nose and slowly examine the face, forehead and ears (outer and inner surface of the ear flap/pinna). Also search the eyes and lips and the skin/fur around the eyes and lips. Carefully examine all skin folds as well. Remove any collars and search the neck area thoroughly including the skin folds of the neck.

Continue the search, searching the shoulder area and then down the shoulders to the front legs. Remember to check between each toe and under surface of the front feet. Also check under the armpits. Examine the chest area, all along the back, sides, belly, inguinal area, around the tail and anus and the thighs, back legs, in between the back leg toes and feet (including the under surface).

#### *How do you remove a tick?*

If a tick is found it should be removed immediately. Your veterinarian can show you the best way to remove a tick. When removing a tick, avoid disturbing the body of the tick (don't squeeze the body). Aim to remove the tick by its head (remove it at the head end of the tick, at the point of insertion into the pet's skin). A useful aid is a tick remover - a fork like device that slides either side of the tick without touching the body of the tick and removes the tick easily.

If you find a tick, remove it immediately and take your dog to the vet as soon as possible. Remember to also continue to search for more ticks. Some dogs can be infested with many ticks at one time.

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# Tick Paralysis

*(Continued from page 4)*

### 3. Be aware of the symptoms of tick paralysis which may include:

- Loss of coordination in the hind legs (wobbliness in the back legs) or not being able to get up
- Weakness in the back legs
- A change in the sound of the bark or voice
- Retching, coughing (sometimes it is a moist cough), vomiting
- Excessive salivation/drooling
- Loss of appetite
- Progressive paralysis to include the forelegs
- Difficulty breathing or rapid breathing
- Grunting noises when breathing or any other abnormal behaviour or symptom

### **What should you do if your pet shows symptoms of tick toxicity or if you find a crater or a tick on your dog?**

Take your pet to your veterinarian as soon as possible – tick paralysis is a serious and potentially fatal condition that requires veterinary attention.

Stay calm and keep your pet calm and at a comfortable temperature (not too hot or cold). Search for ticks and remove them as soon as possible (see removal tips above).

Do not offer food or water or give anything orally, pets affected by tick paralysis cannot protect their airway when they swallow (as a result of the toxin) and this may lead to aspiration of food/water into their airways which can cause aspiration pneumonia and serious breathing difficulties.

### 4. Tick control products

In addition to being aware of tick paralysis and the common symptoms, avoiding tick habitats and daily searching for ticks on your dog, talk to your vet about tick control products which are safe and suitable for dogs.

Important note: Never use any dog tick control products on cats as some dog products are highly toxic to cats and can kill cats.

If you have any questions about tick paralysis, talk to your veterinarian.

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<http://kb.rspca.org.au/entry/523/>





*(Continued from page 2)*

From the SR archives, here is an essay that ran in 1997. Its author, Jackie Nivison, is no longer with us, but her affection for her breed endures in her always clever, sometimes biting observations. -- Denise and Theresa, the *Sighthound Review* gals

I figured you just contacted breeders who might have something you wanted, picked out a likely pup, and wrote the check. Wrong. I could have adopted a Romanian orphan more easily than talking a Whippet breeder out of a show pup.

It seemed there was a long questionnaire to be answered before the breeders would even talk to you. I was taken aback by some of the questions. "Are you financially secure?" (Well, I was before I got into dogs.) "Is your marriage solid?" (Again, no problems pre-dogs; little shaky post-pooches.) I didn't mind breeders who insisted that I have the dog "fixed" if it proved to be less than show quality, but there are some Whippet breeders out there who want you to be neutered to keep anything from happening that might take your attention away from their dog.

And the show scene ... just because you have a Whippet who can run faster, jump higher and turn quicker than any other dog on the field-trial circuit, don't think you are going to take it to a show and win. Because -- and pay attention here, as this is hard-won information -- they want dogs who look like they can run, not dogs who actually can run. I have had judges explain to me that a certain Whippet (mine) doesn't have enough chest to be a good runner. Well, if it takes a big chest to run fast, how come Dolly Parton isn't a track star?

I am endlessly fascinated by women who couldn't get their fannies into a 700-series shipping crate advising newcomers to the breed that they should take a few pounds off their Whippet before they enter the show ring. And the old girls with their knee braces criticizing someone's dog for not having the proper gait. Let's face it; had we been dogs, most of us would have ended up in the kennel man's bucket.

My whole life has changed since I bought my first Whippet. These days when the Neiman Marcus catalogue arrives I pitch it in the trash, but when the R.C. Steele catalogue arrives, everything comes to a stop. The only dress I own is a bilious shade of green that makes me look like a large pile of upchucked, dog-chewed grass. I'm sure I don't have to tell you that I own a red show bitch.

Why would anyone like Whippets? They treat their owners with go-to-hell affection. They love you to pieces, but I could sooner get my husband's attention 15 minutes after the Sports Illustrated swimsuit edition arrives, than I could call a Whippet back from chasing something.

That's another thing. In order to own these dogs, you have to put up a fence that would stop a Marine assault group. When I bought my first Whippet, I thought my backyard would be enhanced by Sight hounds lined against my picket fence and lounging among my flowers. Har! Even with her crooked front legs, it took my Whippet 30 seconds to be on the other side of the pickets: She treats it like a beginner's agility obstacle. Once I had a fence that would hold her (within a week and after spending \$2,800), she took the flowers out. I wasn't a wanton act of destruction -- impatiens weren't meant to serve as a race course. These days my backyard looks like a commando training ground.

There is an upside to all this. My little throw-away Whippet turned out to be the canine version of the Ugly Duckling. After sitting on the sofa with me and eating cheese-laden pizza for a few weeks, her legs straightened and her bite became perfect. (Never underestimate the curative powers of pizza.) Then, at above one year, the pigment came in around her eyes. Now all the dog people who advised me to have her spayed or put down are wondering when she might be having puppies. (Her pedigree is impeccable.)

Well, we're thinking about it. Want one? I'll have to have your Social Security number, your fingerprints, a letter from your banker and the results of a drug test. Better plan on having a physical, too; no pup of mine is going to go where somebody might have the poor taste to die and leave it orphaned. Plus my name stays on the papers as owner. You can be co-owner. (Co-owner: that's a euphemism for "It ain't your dog.") Oh, yeah. I'll need a copy of your will after you have it changed, as the Whippet inherits.

Then maybe I'll sell you a pup, but probably not.

Article courtesy of [www.sighthoundreview.com](http://www.sighthoundreview.com)

# Member Profile: The Johnston's Whippet Clan



*(Continued from page 1)*

things were starting to get a little awkward! It was when Captain escaped for the 3rd time and went missing overnight during a thunderstorm that we decided this was the last straw, and it was time for Captain to lose his ahem...manhood.

Obviously still a lonely boy well after his recovery we decided it was time to seek a companion for Captain. We found an ad in the trading post for a whippet litter that was born just around the corner from us...it was meant to be, and our little girl Cayla came

home with us.

We were initially a little concerned when we brought Cayla home and Captain was growling at her while we snuggled with her on the couch but much to our delight we woke up to this scene of Captain and Cayla together after their first night together...MELT!

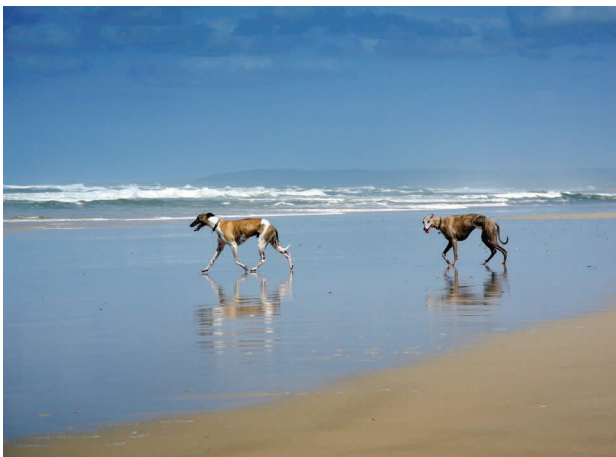
Captain and Cayla from this day forward were the best of friends! And still six years later almost every day without fail at around four-o'clock they enjoy happy hour together and run wild laps around our Queenslander.

Cayla has such an awesome personality for such a little whippet. She loves to snuggle and just melt into our laps for a completely submissive cuddle. She also will not negotiate on her morning sun-baking on the deck and bitch and whine if locked inside while missing her precious rays. We've also caught her in the most obscure poses over the years that would make yogis jealous. A few years back she waxed lyrical to us when she was clearly not impressed about being ignored. Since then we have actually trained our little girl to say 'Wrun Around' and 'Harouw' for treats. And when it comes to treats, the Duck Deluxe dog treats are the duck's nuts!



Captain and Cayla after their first night together

Captain on the other hand is not food driven at all, he's even particular about who he will take food from and won't drink or eat in public! He does however seek opportunities to enjoy the finer things in life. I've caught him seeking sips of chardonnay and earl grey tea and is normally well behaved when I am unloading the shopping but one day couldn't resist the tantalizing smell of a piece of very expensive truffled brie that I brought home from the markets!



We love our four-legged fur babies very much and I don't see us being without whippets ever again. One of our favourite things to do as a family is to take a doggies day out to Sandgate and run with the dogs on the sand. Inevitably the run works up a hunger and Ben and I tuck into some fish and chips. Cayla always gets the crunchy prawn tails as Captain won't eat in public.

# Back in Black (and Blue)

by Robin Barry and Vickie Smith

Ever since there have been whippets, there have been black (and blue) whippets and fanciers who have admired them and strived to produce good ones. There is just something compelling about a GOOD black whippet with the correct whippet outline and proper bone. Everything is there, right in front of you. Your eye takes in the complete patent leather silhouette, and it is not distracted by patches of colour. Faults cannot easily be hidden. Certainly a rare sight, such a whippet, and one to be savoured on the rare occasion when one is found. And the parti-colour blacks, so striking, in a bold and beautiful way.

The black gene is dominant and therefore to get black puppies, the sire or dam must be black or blue. (A note here-blue is simply the dilute of the black gene and from now on when we talk about black, we are automatically including blue) Again, the black gene is dominant to brindle and fawn-if a whippet carries the black gene and it WILL BE BLACK (or blue). From this fact, it is easy to understand why it would be easy to lose the black gene from ones gene pool. Over the years, there have been numerous whippet breeders who have bred/promoted black whippets in the U.S. in the U.K and in other countries.

Studying the pedigrees of the black and blue whippets is so interesting...because black is dominant, one can follow the black gene back for as far as the colours are listed and see exactly what dog it has come from. The Whippet Archives (<http://thewhippetarchives.net>) is a wonderful tool and I urge those of you interested in looking at the pedigrees of your whippets and what's behind them to use it and add information/photos to the site. It's a great resource for anyone interested in the breed, particularly for those who will follow us.

This has been a VERY brief overview of some of the black whippets past and present. I have regrettably left out far more breeders and dogs than have been included. If anyone would like to add information, pictures or stories to this PLEASE feel free to do so by contacting Vickie a ewhippetzine@aol.com.

Bo Bengtson's book "The Whippet" is an in depth history of the breed and he does include many blacks and their achievements. Another great resource is the Archives on the AWC web site.

Great historical information and photos and no need to duplicate it here....go look and read for yourself! Enjoy!!!



"I wanna see it painted, painted black. Black as night, Black as coal ..."

The Rolling Stones

*"There is just something compelling about a GOOD black whippet with the correct whippet outline and proper bone"*



*NB – this is an excerpt of a longer article "Back in Black (and Blue)" on*

*<http://www.ewhippetzine.com>*



# ABOUT THE CLUB

## Whippet Club of Queensland

### Club Office Bearers & Committee 2013-14

PRESIDENT: Ian Rasmussen  
 VICE PRESIDENT: Jenni McKearnan  
 SECRETARY: Ian Barnwell  
 TREASURER: Toni McNeill  
 RESCUE COORDINATOR: Sue Spencer  
 SHOW SECRETARY: Toni McNeill  
 Email: whippetclubqld@gmail.com

Our club was formed in 2007 by Whippet enthusiasts in Queensland, with the aim of raising awareness of this wonderful breed, and in its ability to compete in a variety of dog sports, as well as being a wonderful companion.



We aim to provide our members with support and advice in all aspects of the breed and promote ethical and responsible breeding practices



And now for something completely different...

### Anatomy of a Whippet

