

NEWSLETTER



THE DOBIE TIMES

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HELLO 🙌

Happy Easter Monday. The bank holiday weekend and Easter are ending on a high note with a successful dog show held at Burrs Country Park in Bury, look out for an exciting article in the May issue. The Dobie Times aims to entertain and inform readers about things going on at Lincs Dobermann Rescue but in this issue, there is an article about a very serious disease that can affect Dobermanns called DCM. The facts were kindly provided by a cardiologist to ensure the information provided is as accurate as possible. In the last issue dog sports were introduced and the first sport talked about was Agility. This issue looks at a dog sport called Barn Hunt, a fun, inclusive activity for all dogs and dog owners. Finally, "Wonky Donkey" Skyla stole Ann's heart and helps Ann raise much needed funds for Lincs Dobermann Rescue through car boot sales and walking challenges. Ann and Skyla are having such a wonderful, fun journey together, all while clocking up the miles.

HAPPY EASTER FROM EVERYONE AT LINC'S DOBERMANN RESCUE 🐣

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Upcoming Events

Training Session – Sunday 14th April 2024



Wayne Dolecki and Ryan Bowen are holding a training session on the 14th April 2024 following the success of the training sessions held in August and September last year. This course will help you understand how dogs process the information you give them by covering the following topics:

- 🐾 How dogs learn
- 🐾 Dog behaviour and mindset for training
- 🐾 Building engagement
- 🐾 Using markers
- 🐾 Loose lead walking
- 🐾 Recall

The Trainers:

Wayne Dolecki: the Director of Military K9 Fitness & Behaviour is a professional handler with more than 15 years training experience gained initially in the British Army, where he qualified as a dog handler and trainer covering a range of disciplines: Protection dogs, Vehicle search dogs, Dual Purpose dogs, Tracker dogs, and High Assurance Search dogs. Wayne's Army career gave him many opportunities to study and work with some of the best trainers in the world with agencies such as the British Armed Police, German and American Special Forces, United States law enforcement and British Special Forces. As a qualified coach he is able to help each client get the most out of the session.

Ryan Bowen: Ryan has dedicated a third of his life to working with dogs and a variety of animals across the animal sector to help give that experience and information back to owners. Experience has been gained from rescues, kennels, the commercial sector and even as a zookeeper. Ryan has a degree in Animal Behaviour, Diploma in Animal Management and is a graduate from the Will Atherton Academy, having completed the Advanced Training and Behaviour Course, and becoming a Will Atherton Accredited Trainer.

Venue: Oakham, Rutland.

Time: 9 am to finish

Date: 14th April 2024

Cost: Handler and Dog + 1 £45, Individual £10

Light lunch and refreshments provided

The funds raised will go directly to Lincs Dobermann Rescue to enable us to continue to support Dobies in Need.

All About Dogs Show Newark – Saturday 20th and Sunday 21st April in Newark



- Lincs will have a stand at the All About Dogs Show in Newark
- Opening times 9:30am to 5:00pm
- Tickets can be purchased online
- Free Parking
- It is being held at Newark Showground, Lincoln Road, Winthorpe, Newark, NG24 2NY



2024 DATES CONFIRMED

All About Dogs

An event organised by DOG LOVERS for DOG LOVERS

20 & 21 APRIL

Newark Showground

BRING YOUR DOG!

FREE PARKING!

WOOF!
FETCH DISCOUNT
TICKETS ONLINE
NOW

The perfect day out for your dog

ADOPTION TIPS

1. Do your research on the breed you want to adopt. Dobermanns are a large breed that require exercise and lots of attention. They also take up lots of space.
2. Get your application in early. By the time you see a post on a Dobie that is ready for adoption, it is likely a match has been found from the existing waitlist.
3. Be patient. The right Dobie is out there for you but it may take some time for them to find you.

Wonky Donkey Skyla

Ann is well experienced with Dobermanns, having had 9 Dobermanns over 40 years. The one thing she insists on for each and every one of them is training. That is especially important as Ann ages, to ensure her safety and that of others.



Ann was looking for a second Dobermann to join her and Jessica after losing her beautiful male Dobermann suddenly. Ann definitely knew what she didn't want and made sure that Lincs Dobermann Rescue knew what those restrictions were. She didn't want another female (already having a female Dobermann), she wasn't keen on a brown (her favourite would have been a blue), and she really didn't want a Dobermann with cropped ears and a docked tail. While this might seem like Ann was being picky, it can also be said that she just knew what she wanted and didn't want, having the courage to speak her mind. Then Julie called, asking Ann if she could look after a Dobermann that had come to Lincs, a Dobermann that had obviously been abused. There was just one problem, Skyla was a brown girl with cropped ears and a docked tail. Ann agreed to help with Skyla due to Skyla's sad story and so Skyla joined Ann and Jessica in June 2022. Skyla came to Ann underweight, with a thin flaky coat, issues with her eyes that would require an operation, and pressure sores. Poor Skyla was not in very good condition but Ann took her in, determined to give her all the love and care Skyla deserved.

It would be a rocky start for Skyla and Ann as not long after getting Skyla, Ann would break both her wrists (YIKES). This would be a challenge to anyone, never mind someone who had two Dobermanns. It was Lincs Dobermann Rescue that would step up and take care of not only Skyla but also Jessica for Ann, giving her the much-needed time to rest, heal, and recover. Once ready both Skyla and Jessica would return to Ann. Sadly, Jessica would pass away in December 2022. Quite a first six months together for Ann and Skyla.

After all the ups and downs of the latter half of 2022, Ann would take Skyla to her trainer in January 2023, determined to have a well-behaved Dobermann who would listen to Ann. Skyla was a timid girl, scared of everything in the early days with Ann. As adopted dogs often do, Skyla proved in the right environment they can thrive. Skyla has thrived with Ann, doing rally competitions (getting the minimum of 175 points to pass) and achieving Skyla's bronze and silver (they are working on gold now) as well as helping Ann raise money for Lincs Dobermann Rescue through walking challenges and car boot sales. Ann managed to walk a million steps last year and is completing a virtual walking challenge from Land's End to John O'Groats (1,084 miles/1,743km) with Skyla this year. Amazingly in just a few short months, Ann and Skyla have completed half the distance for the virtual walking challenge.

Ann admits to being very competitive and loves to do fancy dress with Skyla. She also continues to challenge Skyla through training, competitions, and teaching her new tricks all the time. Some of the tricks Skyla has learned include pressing a bell for her favourite treat (this has backfired slightly as now Skyla presses the bell continually for treats and only stops when the bell is removed 😂), chattering her teeth when she is cold to get Ann to turn on the heating (just so she can curl up in front of the heating to be cozy and warm) and there is an egg trick coming soon. If there is one flaw with Skyla, it is that she doesn't bark, particularly doesn't bark when someone is at the door. Ann has been working on trying to get Skyla to bark, which Skyla does but only for treats.

Skyla proved to be good support for Ann after the loss of Jessica. With everything that Ann told Lincs that she didn't want in a Dobermann, Skyla has turned out to be the perfect dog for Ann (Ann herself says that Skyla is absolutely perfect for her and her trainer agrees). Skyla the brown Dobermann with badly cropped ears and docked tail, has become Ann's "Wonky Donkey", her perfect match. Now if only Skyla would bark to alert Ann to visitors.....



Doing 3 peaks



Doing 2 minute wait



Completing her silver



Doing her virtual walking challenge



Getting her first pass in her first rally

Dog Sport – Barn Hunt

Barn Hunt is interesting dog sport aimed at using a dog's natural instinct to smell out rats in a barn, particular for the ratter breeds. It was created in the United States by Robin Nutall and is a privately registered sport. There are many levels to work through in Barn Hunt to obtain the following titles:



- ✿ RATI (Instinct)
- ✿ RATN (Novice)
- ✿ RATO (Open)
- ✿ RATS (Senior)
- ✿ RATM (Master)
- ✿ RATCH (Champion)
- ✿ REMX (Barn Hunt Elite)

To compete in Barn Hunt trials for titles, registration is required. There are events available that do not require registration such as workshops, open days, and fun tests. Barn Hunt UK is the sole licence holder in the UK.

Barn Hunt tests the teamwork of the dog and the handler, but is very inclusive for both dogs and handlers. Handlers do not need to run around so allows anyone to compete including handlers with mobility challenges. The same can be said for dogs. Barn Hunt is inclusive of all breeds and cross-breeds, as well as being open to all ages and even disabled dogs, such as tri-paws and deaf dogs.

So, what is Barn Hunt exactly? It is a scent test for dogs to find hidden tubes that have dead rats in them. Never fear, the rats are sourced from a reputable reptile food supplier and are frozen. The tubes are securely sealed with only tiny holes to allow the scent to escape, meaning dogs will never come in contact with the dead rats. The ring used is fully fenced with straw bales in it. The dogs are tested on speed, agility, and hunting instincts while climbing over bales, going through tunnels, and dealing with obstacles. The handlers' challenge is to read their dogs cues and signals when the dog finds one of the tubes.

What an exciting and challenging way for dogs and their handlers to build trust and understanding, while being inclusive for every dog and human no matter their potential limitations.

Barn Hunt UK - <https://barnhuntuk.co.uk/>

DCM – Dilated Cardiomyopathy



Warning this article may be triggering.

Disclaimer:

This article is meant to be informative and educational. The facts have been provided by a cardiologist. If you have any questions or concerns, please speak with your vet and/or cardiologist who will be able to provide you with the best advice and information for your precious Dobermann and your specific circumstance.

This article is aimed at exploring and educating Dobermann owners about a horrible disease that affects quite a lot of Dobermanns, Dilated Cardiomyopathy or DCM. You may have heard about DCM through friends, posts, other Dobermann owners, or have experience yourself with DCM affecting your very precious Dobermann. If you haven't heard of DCM, please be sure to read this article as it affects a significant number of Dobermanns.

So, what is DCM?

It is a disease associated with the impaired ability of the heart muscle to contract and includes the left ventricle or both ventricles enlarging or becoming wider.

DCM seems to affect large and giant breeds such as Newfoundlands, Boxers, and Dobermanns; however, it appears that the highest number of cases are in Dobermanns. Sadly, the exact cause for DCM has not been found, with a variety of potential causes being found in certain individual cases. Genetic factors seem to often play a role in Dobermanns developing DCM.

DCM can be hard to recognise in your dog, so it is recommended that breeds at high risk of developing DCM should undergo echocardiogram at the age of 3 years old and continuing to have repeat echocardiograms every 2 years after that. The abnormal heart rhythm can occur in Dobermanns months, even years prior to observing any overt signs of DCM such as:

- 🐾 Weakness
- 🐾 Lethargy
- 🐾 Tachypnoea (fast breathing)
- 🐾 Dyspnoea (difficulty breathing)
- 🐾 Exercise intolerance
- 🐾 Coughing
- 🐾 Anorexia
- 🐾 Abdominal distension
- 🐾 Syncope (fainting or passing out)

These symptoms may seem to come on rapidly but may have followed a prolonged period where the non-overt signs of DCM have been present.

Your vet may be able to identify the following symptoms of heart failure:

- 🐾 Tachypnoea (rapid breathing)
- 🐾 Increased breath sounds
- 🐾 Pulmonary crackles
- 🐾 Jugular venous distension



- 🐾 Pleural effusion (fluid in the chest)
- 🐾 Ascites (fluid in the abdomen)
- 🐾 Muffled heart sounds
- 🐾 Gallop rhythm

At present there is no cure for DCM, but there are ways of managing DCM depending what stage of heart failure the disease has been detected.

The following treatments can be used through all stages of heart failure (mild to moderate, severe/acute, and chronic):

- 🐾 ACE inhibitor
- 🐾 Furosemide (injectable for severe/acute)
- 🐾 Anti-arrhythmia therapy

Below are further treatments that can be used at each specified stage of heart failure:

Mild to moderate signs of heart failure

- 🐾 Pimobendan/digoxin
- 🐾 Possibly spironolactone
- 🐾 Exercise restriction until signs stabilise
- 🐾 Dietary salt restriction

Treatment for severe or acute signs of heart failure

- 🐾 Hospitalisation
- 🐾 Oxygen therapy
- 🐾 Inotropic support (intravenous heart medications)
- 🐾 Vasodilators (but to be used with caution)
- 🐾 Possibly bronchodilator
- 🐾 Possibly synthetic agonist-antagonist opioid analgesia
- 🐾 Cage rest
- 🐾 Minimal handling
- 🐾 Monitor respiratory and heart rate

Chronic DCM management

- 🐾 Pimobendan/digoxin
- 🐾 Spironolactone
- 🐾 Other medications as required
- 🐾 Dobermann owner education
- 🐾 Monitor resting respiratory rate
- 🐾 Regular but mild exercise
- 🐾 Dietary salt restriction
- 🐾 Routine health maintenance- heart worm preventative
- 🐾 Manage all other medical problems

Ultimately too many beloved Dobermanns develop DCM.

Below is a technical fact sheet that has informed this article, provided in full to help educate Dobermann owners of the risk, symptoms, diagnosis, and treatment of DCM.

DCM fact sheet



Overview

Dilated cardiomyopathy is a disease associated with impaired myocardial contractility and includes dilation of the left ventricle or both ventricles. Fast arrhythmias are commonly seen with DCM. The cardiac chamber dilation normally follows with progressive deterioration of systolic pump function and cardiac output declines. Majority of the time all chambers will be dilated but the ventricle dilation is most predominant. In advance disease you can get increased ventricular diastolic stiffness which can contribute to end-diastolic pressure, venous congestion and the end result tends to be congestive heart failure.

Breeds such as Newfoundlands, Boxers and Dobermans are pre-disposed to this disease due to a distinctive characteristic of myofiber degeneration, myocyte atrophy, fatty infiltration and fibrosis- but underlying mechanisms of the disease are still not 100% clear. Biochemical defects, nutritional deficiencies, toxins, immunologic mechanisms and infectious agents can all be involved in certain individual cases. With Dobermans genetic factors often plays a huge role in this breed developing DCM. The disease appears to develop over a longer period of time and there can be no symptoms in the occult (non-clinical signs) stage.

Right or left sided heart failure as well as low cardiac output failure is commonly seen in dogs with DCM. Poor blood flow with the increased ventricular diastolic pressure can compromise perfusion which further impairs myocardial function and can also increase the risk of arrhythmias- intense myocardial dysfunction can result in cardiogenic shock. Atrial fibrillation as well as other atrial and ventricular arrhythmias are common, the loss of the 'atrial kick' in atrial fibrillation can greatly reduce cardiac output which can result in clinical decompensation. Persistent tachycardia (fast heart rate) can accelerate progression which can cause syncope (collapsing) episodes and at times sudden death which unfortunately is more commonly seen in Dobermans and Boxers.

Clinical features

Idiopathic DCM is commonly seen in large and giant breeds but Dobermans appear to have the highest number of cases. The disease is very rare in dogs weighing less than 12kg. DCM is most often diagnosed in middle aged dogs but cases are higher in older dogs. Some studies have shown that DCM affects male dogs more but in routine screening this is not necessarily the case.

Pre-clinical phase (occult)

The occult phase can be prolonged. Arrhythmias can occur in Dobermans months or even years before clinical signs of DCM are shown. Once the left ventricle function starts to deteriorate the frequency of arrhythmias becomes more frequent. It is recommended that breeds pre-disposed to DCM should undergo an echocardiogram at the age of 3 years old and continue to have one every 2 years after that. Also having a 24-hour Holter monitor in place has been useful in recording and identifying arrhythmias along with the frequency that they occur. On the monitor, normally, if it shows a number greater than 50 of VPC's in the 24-hour period, or a number of couplets or triplets it is thought to predict that DCM could be in your dog's future, but there have been cases with less than 50 VPCs over the 24-hour time period who have later gone on to develop DCM. ECG alone is normally not a sensitive or specific enough tool to screen for DCM. Echocardiograms cannot always rule out DCM in early occult phases but there have been cases of ventricular enlargement

in Dobermans years before they have developed DCM, but it should be noted that Dobermans that appear healthy often have reduced myocardial function compared to other breeds.



Overt DCM

The onset of clinical signs may appear fairly suddenly despite a prolonged occult phase especially in household pets where early signs may not be noticed. Common symptoms that are present are as follows:

- ✿ Weakness
- ✿ Lethargy
- ✿ Tachypnoea (fast breathing)
- ✿ Dyspnoea (difficulty breathing)
- ✿ Exercise intolerance
- ✿ Coughing
- ✿ Anorexia
- ✿ Abdominal distension
- ✿ Syncope

A vet may also note a prolonged capillary refill time with weak femoral pulses. Uncontrolled atrial fibrillation causes frequent VPCs and can cause a fast and irregular heart rate alongside pulse deficits. Symptoms of right or left sided heart failure which may be identified by your vet are as follows:

- ✿ Tachypnoea
- ✿ Increased breath sounds
- ✿ Pulmonary crackles
- ✿ Jugular venous distension
- ✿ Pleural effusion (fluid in the chest)
- ✿ Ascites (fluid in the abdomen)
- ✿ Muffled heart sounds
- ✿ Gallop rhythm

Soft-moderate systolic heart murmurs can also be seen in some cases and mitral/tricuspid valve regurgitation is common. Uniform or multiform VPCs and paroxysmal ventricular tachycardia with sinus rhythm (normal trace) or atrial fibrillation are typical seen in Dobermans. Echocardiogram is the best option for assessing cardiac function and measuring chamber size and also the best way to rule out congenital cardiac disease. Other cardiac or systemic disease such as hypertension (high blood pressure) must be excluded before coming to the conclusion of DCM being the diagnosis. Diastolic function is thought to only deteriorate after overt DCM develops.

Management

Occult

Dogs that have left ventricle dilation or reduced fractional shortening are often started on an ACE inhibitor although this is not certain it will delay chronic heart failure onset.



General treatment guidelines for overt DCM-

Mild to moderate signs of heart failure

- 🐾 ACE inhibitor
- 🐾 Furosemide
- 🐾 Pimobendan/digoxin
- 🐾 Anti-arrhythmia therapy if needed
- 🐾 Possibly spironolactone
- 🐾 Exercise restriction until signs stabilise
- 🐾 Dietary salt restriction

Treatment for severe or acute signs of heart failure

- 🐾 Hospitalisation
- 🐾 Oxygen therapy
- 🐾 Furosemide (injectable)
- 🐾 Inotropic support (intravenous heart medications)
- 🐾 ACE inhibitor
- 🐾 Vasodilators (but to be used with caution)
- 🐾 Anti-arrhythmia therapy
- 🐾 Possibly bronchodilator
- 🐾 Possibly synthetic agonist-antagonist opioid analgesia
- 🐾 Cage rest
- 🐾 Minimise patient handling
- 🐾 Monitor respiratory and heart rate

Chronic DCM management

- 🐾 ACE inhibitor
- 🐾 Furosemide
- 🐾 Pimobendan/digoxin
- 🐾 Spironolactone
- 🐾 Anti-arrhythmia therapy
- 🐾 Other medications as required
- 🐾 Client education
- 🐾 Monitor resting respiratory rate
- 🐾 Regular but mild exercise
- 🐾 Dietary salt restriction
- 🐾 Routine health maintenance- heart worm preventative
- 🐾 Manage all other medical problems



The 3-3-3 Rule of Adopting a Rescue Dog (This is a general guideline; all dogs are unique and will adjust to their new environments in their own time.)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday
1	2	3

In the first 3 days, your new dog may feel overwhelmed, be scared and unsure of what is going on, not comfortable with themselves or their surroundings, they may not want to eat or drink, shut down and want to curl up in their crate or hide, and finally may test the boundaries.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24

After 3 weeks, your new dog may start to show signs of settling, feel more comfortable in the environment and with the people of the house, understand the routine, start showing their true personality. At this point any behavioural issues may start to show up.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
25	26	27	28	29	30	1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31	1	2	3	4	5

After 3 months, your new dog should feel settled in their new home, have built a bond with the people of the house and be showing signs of trust in the surroundings and people, feeling secure with the home and family, and be settled into a routine.

Ways to Help:

1. Go to the website and click the Donate Now button.
2. Join the Lincs Dobermann Rescue Fundraising Group on Facebook.
3. Become a Dobie Mate by making a monthly donation.
4. Gift in your will.
5. Volunteer to Foster Dobies that come to Lincs Dobermann Rescue.
6. Volunteer in other ways. There are plenty of opportunities to help.

Remember no amount is too small. Every little bit helps all the beautiful Dobies that come through Lincs Dobermann Rescue.



Lincs Dobermann Rescue Website

<https://lincsdobermannrescue.com/>



Main Facebook Page

<https://www.facebook.com/lincsdobermannrescue>



Dobies @ Lincs Dobermann Rescue (Adoption page)

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/720348868349681>



Lincs Dobermann Rescue Fundraising Group

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/378819317147099>



X (Formerly Twitter)

<https://twitter.com/LincsDobermann>



Instagram

https://www.instagram.com/lincs_dobermann_rescue

Fun Facts:

Dobermanns have four colours; black, brown, blue, or fawn (Isabella) with rust red markings.

