

Letters to the Editor

No fan of Doris Day Animal League

A national watchdog group of state attorneys general (National Association of Attorneys General, Washington, DC) has termed "unethical" any fund-raising expenses surpassing a third of total annual organization income. The latest issue of *Animal People* reported the Doris Day Animal League spent a whopping 96% of its 1993 income on fund-raising and administration. This is the animal rights organization that the AVMA leadership has agreed to partner with to promote Spay Day USA. This same organization promotes legislation in our nation's capital, which, if passed, would result in putting many veterinarians and their clients out of business.

Using the logic and rationale of AVMA teaming up with this or any animal rights group, I expect to see publicity at any time where the NAACP has contracted with the KKK to help it promote Black History Month.

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More information on hematologic characteristics of Greyhounds

With reference to the recent article and correspondence about hematologic characteristics of Greyhounds and their platelet counts (*JAVMA*, Sept 15, 1994, pp 838-841; Dec 1, 1994, pp 1513-1514), we recently studied a group of 34 former racetrack Greyhounds that served as regu-

lar blood donors in the commercial animal blood bank I operate. Before including the dogs in the donor colony, they were screened for blood-borne diseases including babesiosis, ehrlichiosis, borreliosis, Rocky Mountain spotted fever, hemobartonellosis, and dirofilariasis and universal donor blood type (DEA 4). All dogs were neutered and had been conditioned for at least 1 month before commencing blood donation. Dogs were selected according to their scheduled turn to donate a 250-ml unit of blood, and had not been bled for at least 14 days. Results (mean \pm SD) of hematologic tests were: PCV, $53.0 \pm 4.3\%$ (range, 43 to 60%); WBC count, $8,430 \pm 1,860$ cells/ μ l (range, 5,100 to 13,100 cells/ μ l); platelet count, $207 \pm 38 \times 10^3/\mu$ l (range, 136 to $313 \times 10^3/\mu$ l); and, von Willebrand factor:antigen (vWF:Ag), $73 \pm 28\%$ (range, 25 to 170%). Only 2 dogs had platelet counts below 150,000/ μ l, and 1 dog had persistently clumped platelets, which precluded accurate counting. These

results indicated that Greyhounds maintained in our blood donor program had mean platelet counts within established normal ranges for dogs. Five dogs had vWF:Ag measurements below 50%, and the mean vWF:Ag percentage was at the low end of the normal reference range for dogs (70 to 180%). The mean PCV was slightly higher than the normal range for dogs, as is typically seen in this breed. Thus, we could not confirm the lower platelet counts observed by Sullivan et al¹ and Eddlestone and Taboada,² and believe that Greyhounds selected and conditioned according to defined blood bank criteria make ideal canine blood donors.

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1. Sullivan PS, Evans HL, McDonald TP. Platelet concentration and hemoglobin function in Greyhounds. *J Am Vet Med Assoc* 1994;205:838-841.

2. Eddlestone S, Taboada J. Hematologic characteristics of Greyhounds (lett). *J Am Vet Med Assoc* 1994;205:1513-1514.

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