



# Russian Tsvetnaya Bolonka News

Volume 8 – December 20, 2023

I found this article online, I think it's something we all should follow when showing dogs.

*Candace Mogavero*

President RTBCA



## SHOW RING ETIQUETTE

- Pick up any bait you drop or toss**
  - Pay attention to the judge's directions**
  - Leave plenty of room for the person in front of you**
  - Use squeaker toys only when it won't disturb other dogs**
  - Be ready to go into the ring on time**
  - Ask if others are ready if you are first in line**
  - Let the judge and others know if your bitch is in season**
  - Only feed your dog when the judge is past looking at the head and bite**
  - Be sure the steward and judge can see your armband**
  - Make sure your dog(s) is quiet and contained at ringside**
  - Be polite to other exhibitors, the judge and ring steward**
  - Congratulate the winners**
- Additionally,
- Talking to your dog in the ring is okay
  - Starting over is okay
  - Taking your time to present your dog well is okay
  - Asking for more space is okay
  - Making sure you aren't blocked by the table, ramp or poles is okay
  - Having fun is okay**

# NEWS FROM THE BOARD

## The Board Voted!

**Starting in 2024 the Membership Fee** is waived for the first year for brand new members only. \*Must own or co-own a Bolonka and the Registration number must be on the paperwork.

In 2024 all members will receive a RTBCA Membership card and a “Proud to be a RTBCA Club Member” bumper / gear sticker.

Reminder that Membership Fees are due before January 31, 2024.

The 2024 Specialty will be in Prescott, AZ on September 19th ~ Watch for Updates!

The next breeder’s education will be held on Thursday January 18, 2024.

The RTBCA club must host two AKC Open shows available to all FSS/MISC breeds to be eligible to apply for full AKC recognition by the end of 2024. Our first OPEN show was held December 1, 2023, in Conroe, Texas. Thank you to all the participants! The club’s second open show will be held in Prescott, Arizona in conjunction with the Specialty.

**The RTBCA club would like to invite all members in good standing who would like to participate to join one of the committees. It is a good way to learn and have input on activities within the club.**

**The following committees still need members to volunteer:**

Health ~ Contact Denise   pinklotuskennels@gmail.com

Newsletter ~ Contact Christine   blueridgepups@gmail.com

Breeder Education ~ Contact Candace   faireland1@gmail.com

Trophy ~ Contact Jeanie       dotjeansimon@yahoo.com

Solicitations ~ Contact Mary       mpoineal@gmail.com

**WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!** Sharon Bartlett, Andrew Dang, Ronnie Fredson, Jason Hlavenka, Nicholas McGinn, Jennifer McKinney, Nathan Miller, Dr. Nikki Woller, and Marci White

**Bolonki Currently Available:**

Debby Buse ~ Debby’s Bolonkas: 3 neutered males

Deborah Howington ~ Showboat Kennels: 3 black coat females, 1 cafe ole’ coat female

Catherine Woods ~ Crown of Curls Kennel

Deborah Pike / Mary Poineal ~ Deb - Mar’s Simply Bolonka: Litter due 12-29-23

# **Bolonka Health**

## **Has your Bolonka been tested? Do you need to test?**

**Degenerative Myelopathy (DM)** is a disease that affects the spinal cord in dogs, causing progressive muscle weakness and loss of coordination. It acts similarly to Lou Gehrig's disease, or ALS (amyotrophic lateral sclerosis), in humans.

There is no cure for DM; however, routine physical therapy may delay the clinical progression of this disease.

### **Causes**

DM is an inherited neurologic disease typically affecting dogs around eight years of age or older. It causes gradual muscle wasting and incoordination in the hind limbs, and then progresses to an inability to walk after six to twelve months. This muscle weakness may extend to the forelimbs in the late stages of the disease. Certain genetic variations may increase a dog's risk of developing DM, and environmental factors may also play a role.

### **Breed Predisposition**

Numerous dog breeds can be affected by DM, including, but not limited to the following:

- German Shepherd Dogs
- Boxers
- Pembroke Welsh Corgis
- Chesapeake Bay Retrievers
- Rhodesian Ridgebacks
- Bernese Mountain Dogs

### **Clinical Signs**

The clinical signs of degenerative myelopathy often start in one hind limb and then progress to include both. The clinical signs of DM may include:

- Difficulty rising
- Hind limb weakness
- Incoordination
- Muscle loss
- Scuffed toenails on hind limbs

## Diagnosis

There is no specific test to diagnose DM while a patient is living. Several tests may need to be performed to rule out other potential spinal cord diseases. Testing may include a neurological exam, blood work, X-rays, MRI or CT scan, and spinal fluid analysis. Genetic testing will show if a patient has one or two copies of the variants associated with the development of DM.

## Treatment

There is no cure for DM, and management tactics include the following:

- Physical therapy to slow the clinical progression and help maintain muscle mass.
- Maintaining a healthy weight
- Using rugs, carpets or yoga mats on hardwood or tiled surfaces
- Adding pet ramps or steps where necessary
- Using a sling or harness to assist with walking and standing.
- Wearing booties to decrease damage to scuffed paws.
- Considering a wheelchair to support the hind limbs.
- Addressing any factors, like arthritis, that may also contribute to mobility issues.

## Outcome

Degenerative myelopathy is a devastating disease. Often, dogs are humanely euthanized within six to twelve months after the onset of clinical signs, due to the debilitating loss of mobility caused by this disease. Without euthanasia, DM can progress for more than three years and lead to an inability to walk or even breathe normally.

However, even if an individual dog is genetically predisposed to developing DM, their overall chance of becoming clinically affected may still be low. It is therefore recommended that no drastic measures be taken without also considering a dog's current clinical state (and general quality of life).

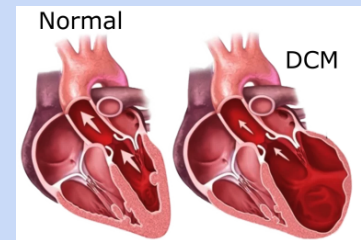
## Genetics

**DM in most dog breeds is caused by a mutation in the SOD1 gene** (SOD1A variant). Dogs with two copies of this variant are considered at a higher risk for developing DM, although it is not guaranteed that they will develop the disease. A dog that is a carrier (possessing one copy of the variant) may still have a risk of developing DM, but generally, the progression of the disease is significantly slower than a dog with two copies of the variant. There are individual, breed-based differences that influence the age of onset. For example, there is a genetic modifier that causes an earlier onset of clinical signs in Pembroke Welsh Corgis. A second variant (SOD1B) is found only in Bernese Mountain Dogs, and so they should be tested for both the SOD1A and B variants to assess their risk of developing DM.

***In recent months it has been discovered that a few Bolonka that were imported to the US are carriers of the condition known as Dilated Cardiomyopathy. Let's discuss this disease and how it can potentially hurt the preservation of this healthy breed. It is recommended that your Bolonka should be DNA tested for this condition prior to being used in any breeding program.***

## **Dilated Cardiomyopathy (DCM)**

Canine Dilated Cardiomyopathy [DCM] is a primary disease of cardiac muscle that results in a decreased ability of the heart to generate pressure to pump blood through the vascular system. The definitive cause of canine DCM is the subject of debate, although a number of factors including nutritional, infections and genetic predisposition have been implicated. The fact that canine DCM occurs at a higher incidence in specific breeds suggests a heritable genetic component to this disease, although it is likely that its etiology is multifactorial.



## **Diagnosis**

DCM is diagnosed by echocardiography, which demonstrates the chamber dilation and indices of decreased pump function characteristic of the disease. Thoracic radiography is useful to evaluate pulmonary (lung) tissue and vessels and may show evidence of fluid accumulation in the lungs (pulmonary edema) or around the lungs (pleural effusion). Electrocardiography may be used to characterize heart rhythm and to rule out arrhythmias; and in some cases, a 24-hour electrocardiogram may be recommended to more accurately characterize cardiac rhythm.

## **Treatment**

Treatment of DCM is directed at improving systolic (pump) function of the heart, dilating the peripheral blood vessels and decrease ventricular workload, eliminating pulmonary congestion if present, and controlling heart rate and cardiac arrhythmias if present. These treatment goals are addressed by the administration of medications, which may be delivered by injection in emergent situations, or orally in patients that are more stable.

## **Prognosis**

Canine DCM can be a devastating disease, and the prognosis for dogs with DCM is variable depending on breed and status at presentation. The prognosis for Doberman Pinschers with DCM, for example, is less favorable than other breeds, while DCM in Cocker Spaniels may be relatively slowly progressive. Patients that are present with congestive heart failure generally have a worse prognosis than those that are not in congestive heart failure at presentation.

Source: A collaboration between the Cornell Richard P. Riney Canine Health Center and Embark Veterinary, Inc. Dr. Jenna Dockweiler, M.S., D.V.M., D.A.C.T., C.C.R.T., C.V.A.T., is a veterinary geneticist at Embark Veterinary, Inc.

# Maintaining A Russian Tsvetnaya Bolonka Long Coat

The Bolonka coat is not as difficult as it would appear. Below are a few suggestions if you would like to maintain a beautiful longer coat on your Bolonka.

**Step One-Keep the coat clean.** A weekly bath is not as much work as it would seem although some prefer their companions to be kept in a teddy bear cut. However, this does take away from the distinctive look of the breed.

## **Before the Bath**

- ◆ Completely brush out all mats gently, with a pin brush, using a leave-in conditioning spray as you brush. If you find a mat, use some spray and your fingers to separate the mat. Then use the brush again to complete the coat.
- ◆ Be sure all mats are out prior to getting your Bolonka wet. Do not attempt to bathe prior to getting the mats out as it will just deepen the mat and make it even more difficult to remove.
- ◆ Trim the hair between the pads of the feet. If the dog has a long coat and they are walking on it, cut and round off the hair on the feet to prevent matting on the feet.
- ◆ Trim nails as needed. Nails should not touch the ground. Bi-monthly nail trimming is recommended as a minimum.
- ◆ Trim hair around the anal area to keep it debris free.

## **Shampooing the Bolonka**

- ◆ Dampen the coat with tepid water [lukewarm]. Using a paraben-free/sulfate-free shampoo, dilute in a separate 16-20 oz. bottle 1-part of shampoo to 4-parts water. Shake well, and apply shampoo to the wet coat. Do not rub the coat, but work the shampoo from the skin to ends of the hair, getting the coat clean. RINSE WELL. When you hear squeaking, you have all the shampoo out.
- ◆ Dilute the conditioner 3:1 in a separate bottle. [Only use conditioner straight when the coat is especially dry or needs a little more conditioner]. RINSE WELL.
- ◆ Blot coat with a towel. Never rub or fluff coat with a towel since that can cause matting.
- ◆ Using a quality leave-in spray conditioner, gently brush through the coat. You may go back through the coat with a comb to make sure you do not have any matting in the wet coat.
- ◆ Place dog in crate with NO bedding or allow to run free without laying on any TOWELS or other things until they are dry. Leaving your Bolonka on a towel while wet can, and most of the time will, cause a severely matted coat.

### **After the Bath:**

- ◆ Once the dog is dry, line brush the coat to make sure there are no mats or tangles. Split the coat in small sections so you can reach the skin and brush the coat. It is suggested to go back through the coat with a light mist of spray conditioner and a comb to check your work.
- ◆ You may pull the hair on top of the head with a non-rubber band into one or two ponytails to keep the coat out of the eyes. This is to prevent eye ulcers and debris from entering the eyes.

**These steps are done once a week for long-coated dogs and twice monthly for dogs that are cut down. If you do a thorough brushing/comb out mid-week it will shorten your time before the bath. It is recommended that the bands on the ponytail should be changed daily to prevent breakage of the coat on the top of the head.**

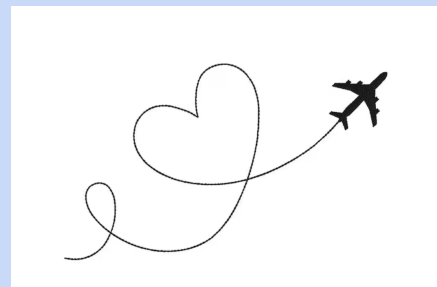
### **Navigating the Skies with a Bolonka Companion: Tips For A Better Experience**

**Flying** with a small dog can be a seamless experience with the right preparation. First, verify the airline's policies regarding in-cabin pet travel, ensuring they align with your furry friend's needs. Once you've chosen a pet-friendly airline, invest in a well-ventilated and airline-approved carrier, providing your dog with a comfortable and secure space for the journey. For breeders transporting multiple dogs, coordination with the airline is crucial, confirming their capacity for accommodating more than one pet in the cabin.

**Pack your pup's essentials** thoughtfully, including familiar items like a cozy blanket or favorite toy. Prioritize a pre-flight bathroom break to ease your dog's nerves and reduce the likelihood of in-flight accidents. During the journey, maintain a calm and reassuring demeanor to help your small dog feel secure and content. With these tips in mind, both breeders and pet owners can ensure a positive and stress-free flying experience for their cherished canine companions.

### **Top 10 items to have on your trip!**

1. Airline-approved carrier of choice
2. Health documentation
3. ID tag and microchip
4. Familiar items (toys, blanket, piece of clothing)
5. Leash and collar
6. Water and bowl
7. Snacks
8. Documentation folder
9. Travel-sized grooming kit
10. First aid kit



## NEW TITLE HOLDERS

CM Showboat Bliss Top Shelf Whiskey Macallan @SFR  
CM9 Showboat's Etched In Steel @SFR  
CM9 Showboat Take Your Whiskey Home  
CM13 PLK I'm Here-There And Everywhere  
BCAT Red October Kara Kum  
AKC Temperament Test Red October Kara Kum CGC ATT  
AKC Temperament Test Tsvet Hibin Taro CM3 TKN ATT

### **Congratulations to the Breeders & Owners!**

Shannon Rives, Deborah & Gary Howington, Elizabeth Melzer, Cheryl Giffin, Kylie Soafer,  
Denise & Cuong Dang, Robbie & Mark Sternlicht, Olga Zhigareva.

## The Conroe, Texas Open Show Participants



## 2023 – 2025 RTBCA Board

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Vice President – Jay Simon        jaycsimon@yahoo.com  
Secretary – Denise Dang           pinklotuskennels@gmail.com  
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