

Judge, public defender host educational game at school

St. Lucie County Court Judge Thomas Walsh and the 19th Judicial Circuit public defender, Diamond Litty, hosted an entertaining and educational "Jeopardy" game for more than 100 sophomores at John Carroll High School on Nov. 9.

The American history students were quizzed on the nuances of the United States Constitution. The timing for this exciting history lesson is ideal, as President George Washington declared Thanksgiving the first legal holiday, which is just a few weeks away.

Ms. Litty is a John Carroll High School alumna and a member of the school's advisory board. American history teacher Becky (Stafford) Jones is also an alumna and was thrilled to see her students being tested on the knowledge she has instilled in them from their recent studies of the Constitution. This interactive lesson allowed the students to get involved in the subject by answering questions, and in turn, receiving candy.

It was evident the John Carroll students were captivated with the presentations as a result of amount

of hands that were raised. The students had numerous questions for the experienced professionals at the end of the game.

"Everything we covered today really reinforced what Mrs. Jones has taught us here at John Carroll," said Hunter Sullivan.

"I would like to see myself in the courtroom one day. I think I would make a great judge," said Diana Lanza. She stayed afterward to speak with Ms. Litty and Judge Walsh to hear more inspiring words. Judge Walsh took the time to discuss careers in political science with several fascinated students.

Judge Walsh and Ms. Litty have hosted this educational game for many students in schools around the county, and were elated to make their first appearance at John Carroll with their son, Blaze Walsh, among the captivated audience of students.

"I like to provide this game to make learning history fun and interesting," Judge Walsh said.

To learn more on John Carroll High School visit www.JohnCarrollHigh.com.

Jennifer Trefelner is accredited in public relations.



Photo courtesy of John Carroll High School
John Carroll High School students Hunter Sullivan, Diana Lanza and Jordan Silver were particularly intrigued by St. Lucie County Court Judge Thomas Walsh and the 19th Judicial Circuit public defender Diamond Litty's presentation at JCHS, and stayed afterward to hear more inspiring words.

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walked back over to the purse and start rummaging through it a second time.

When later confronted, the woman said she went into the purse to get some tissues. However, boxes of tissues were located 4 inches from where she was seated.

Then the woman claimed she went into the purse to see if there was a tape recorder inside.

The police officer told her that obviously she was being recorded. She later admitted to going into the purse to obtain cash.

She was arrested and taken to the St. Lucie County jail, which is another venue where committing a crime and getting away with it is unlikely.

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Cushings Disease

by Patrick Kelly, DVM

Hyperadrenocorticism better known as Cushings Disease is a relatively common disorder of middle aged to older dogs. The disorder is caused by an increase in the production of corticosteroids from the adrenal gland. The adrenal gland normally produces corticosteroids when the blood levels drop or when the body needs an increase in the level of steroids like in a fight or flight syndrome. The pituitary gland produces hormones that stimulate the adrenal gland to produce corticosteroids. If there is a tumor in the pituitary gland, it will produce steroids even when blood levels are adequate. If there is a tumor of the adrenal gland, it will produce steroids even if there are adequate levels in the blood, and no stimulation from the pituitary gland. The resulting clinical signs are increased thirst and urination, increased appetite, and panting. Dogs that have Cushings disease tend to be overweight and have pendulous abdomens, have thin skin, and are predisposed to infections because steroids cause suppression of the immune system. Cushings disease also causes pulmonary hypertension which can lead to cardiac disease. High levels of systemic steroids also can lead to pancreatitis which can result in diabetes mellitus. Clients that have diabetic pets that also have Cushings disease, have a difficult time controlling their pets' insulin needs because Cushings can cause insulin resistance. The most common cause of Cushings disease in veterinary practice is iatrogenic. This means that we veterinarians and clients actually can cause the disease by over prescribing steroids for the treatment of skin allergies. Clients tend to want their dog to stop scratching yesterday, and steroids are quick and inexpensive. I try to discuss the causes of the allergies, i.e. food, fleas, inhalants, and treat the cause rather than treating the symptoms. We try antihistamines, and omega 3 fatty acids first, and discuss flea control, and food trials before we resort to steroids.

We veterinarians become suspicious of Cushings disease when we run blood panels and the alkaline phosphatase (a specific liver enzyme) is elevated when all the other liver enzymes are normal or slightly elevated. The enzyme alkaline phosphatase is highly sensitive to steroids and is the first biochemical clue to early Cushings disease. This is one more reason we encourage routine annual blood panel screens for all pets. This way we can diagnose disease in the earliest and most treatable stage.

There are several tests to diagnose Cushings disease. There is a stimulation test and a suppression test. We do the stimulation test and send it to a lab in Tennessee that also measures hormone levels that are the precursors of corticosteroids. We have found this lab to be the most reliable one in diagnosing the disease.

There are several treatments for Cushings disease. Surgical treatment is impractical, very risky, and expensive. Medical treatment is aimed at management of the disease.

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