



March 2016

Pawprint

Official Publication of The Lakes Region Kennel Club-NH

AKC Member Club

www.lakesregionkennelclub.org

Next Meeting

May 20nd

Meredith Center Fire Station

6:00 PM Board Meeting

6:30 PM General Meeting

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Deadline 15th of each month

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April Showers Bring May Flowers



We're looking for pictures and brags about your dogs along with interesting articles to share with our community. Excellent ones later in this issue.

Send them to polakowski@att.net

Meeting Minutes
Meredith Center Fire Station
March 7, 2016

This is a reprint of March's minutes since we cancelled the April meeting due to inclement weather.

Meeting Called to Order: 6:32

Members Present: Linda Heath, Cathy Barber, Debbie Cost, Susan Blake, Nancy Large, Barb Champaigne, Deb Mardin, Corina Alexander, Mike Tierney, Cathy Bourne, Ken Polakowski

Introduction of Guests: Julie Boyer

Motion made by Nancy Large to accept the February meeting minutes as published. Seconded and passed

Presidents Report: No report

Recording Secretary Report: No report

Corresponding Secretary Report: No report

Treasurer Report: Motion made by Debbie Cost to accept the treasures report subject to review. Seconded and passed

Committees Reports:

- Agility: No report
- AKC Delegate: Received a report from out AKC delegate. Report is embedded within this newsletter.
- Barn Hunt: An email was sent to secure the rats for the event. The portable toilets have been reserved. 4H horse club will be on site doing concessions. There are 10 camping slots on site with water and electrical (30amp and 15amp) hook ups. There is no dumping station on site.
- D.O.G.S: Meeting on weds March 9th. The Legislative update is embedded within this newsletter.
- Handling, Obedience, Performance Classes: Many participants enrolled this session.
- Pet Oxygen Mask: No report
- Spring Match: Received the ribbons. Money is being sent to Meredith Community Center to secure the center for use.
- Paw Print: Please send interesting articles or other information for the newsletter to Ken.
- Rally trial: Community center is secured for October 15th. . Contract has been sent to the judge, Lynda Moore.
- Responsible dog owner day: Will be at Tractor Supply in Tilton in September date to be announced at a later time.
- Scholarship: Contacted UNH to let them know that we were offering the veterinary technician scholarship. The deadline for the veterinarian scholarship applications is May 1, 2016.
- The veterinary technician scholarship will be given out at awards night, May 6, 2016 at 5pm.
- Tracking: Correspondence from Maine tracking club members, one member is possibly going to come to the April meeting to talk to the club about tracking. The Southern New Hampshire German Shepard club will be putting on a tracking seminar this spring, we will post more information as we receive it.
- Website: Being constantly updated as needed. Going to look into seeing if there is a way to track hits on the site.

New Business: Nose Work: Looking into getting a nose work class and a trial started. The venue that is being suggested is Performance Scent Dogs out of Cambridge Mass. Will be looking into how much expense and equipment the club would need to initially invest in to be able to put on a trial. Information on the venue can be found at:

www.performancescentdogs.com.

Meeting adjourned at: 7:13

Respectfully submitted, Deborah Mardin, Recording Secretary

Next meeting: April 4, 2016 Meredith Center Fire Department

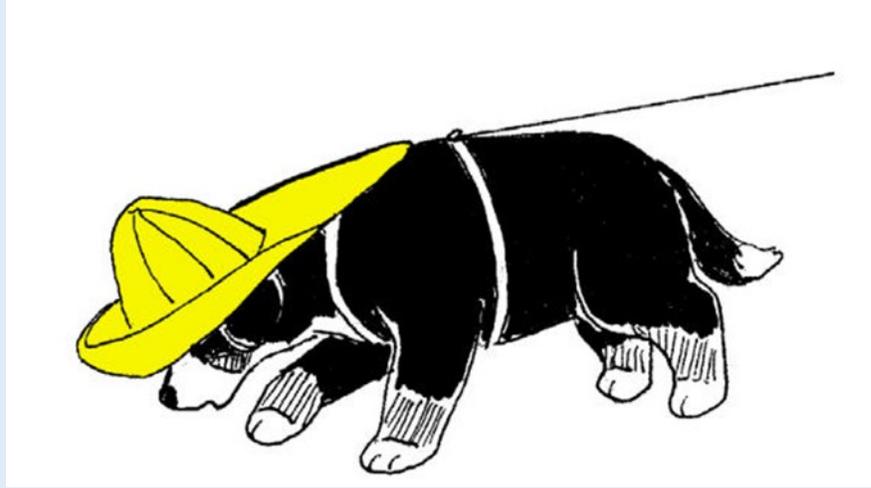
May 2016

The calendar lists LRKC events and a sampling of AKC sanctioned events in New England.

A complete listing of AKC events can be found at: <https://www.apps.akc.org/apps/events/search/index.cfm>

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>1 9 am LRKC Match</p> <p>Meredith Community Center</p>	<p>2 6:00 Board Meeting</p> <p>6:30 General Meeting</p> <p>Meredith Center Fire Station</p>	<p>3 6 Competition Novice Obedience and Therapy Dog Prep</p> <p>6 Breed Handling</p> <p>7 Basic Manners</p> <p>7 Nose Work</p>	4	5	6	7
8	9	<p>10 6 Competition Novice Obedience and Therapy Dog Prep</p> <p>6 Breed Handling</p> <p>7 Basic Manners</p> <p>7 Nose Work</p>	11	12	<p>13 St. Hubert Kennel Club - Salem Community Park - 89 Norwich Road - Salem,CT</p>	<p>14 St. Hubert Kennel Club - Salem Community Park - 89 Norwich Road - Salem,CT</p>
<p>15 Windham County Kennel Club, Inc. - Salem Community Park - 89 Norwich Road - Salem,CT</p>	16	<p>17 6 Competition Novice Obedience and Therapy Dog Prep</p> <p>6 Breed Handling</p> <p>7 Basic Manners</p> <p>7 Nose Work</p>	18	19	20	<p>21 Vacationland Dog Club, Inc. - Wassamki Springs- Scarborough - 56 Saco St - Scarborough,ME</p>
<p>22 York County Kennel Club of Maine - Wassamki Springs- Scarborough - 56 Saco St - Scarborough,ME</p>	23	<p>24 6 Competition Novice Obedience and Therapy Dog Prep</p> <p>6 Breed Handling</p> <p>7 Basic Manners</p> <p>7 Nose Work</p>	25	26	27	<p>28 New England Sporting Group Association - Cheshire Fairgrounds - Cheshire Fairgrounds 247 Monadnock Hwy - Swanzey,NH</p>
<p>29 New England Sporting Group Association - Cheshire Fairgrounds - Cheshire Fairgrounds 247 Monadnock Hwy - Swanzey,NH</p>	30	<p>31 6 Competition Novice Obedience and Therapy Dog Prep</p> <p>6 Breed Handling</p> <p>7 Basic Manners</p> <p>7 Nose Work</p>				

LRKC Tracking Presentation



We are looking to reschedule the tracking presentation. We will announce the new date as soon as we can firm it up.

LRKC Member Brags

Truffle owned by Nancy Large earned two PSD (Performance Scent Dogs) titles: Novice Buildings Interiors and Novice Speed after her 4th trial. Truffle is the first Aussie to earn Novice Buildings and Novice Speed titles.

Truffle also received her Therapy Dog registration with NH Caring Animal Partners and will be visiting in the New London area.



Fair Isle's All American Girl "Missy" x GCH CH Rabbitrun Cindahope Fair Trade owned by Bronwyn Asplund-Walsh had six beautiful sheltie pups born March 14th, 2016 sired by Ch. MacDega Allegiance. Five girls and one boy!!



LAKES REGION KENNEL CLUB, Inc.
www.lakesregionkennelclub.org
AKC SANCTIONED MATCH
Sunday, May 1, 2016



Meredith Community Center, Meredith, NH
 Entries: 9 AM to 11 AM **SHARP (NO exceptions!!)**

Breed Entry: \$10.00 \$5.00 additional Breed entry of same
 dog Junior Handling: \$ 1.00 at Ringside or by Pre-Entry

Crash Handling Class: Offered for beginners at no charge. 10:00 AM. Learn to show your dog.

PRE-ENTRY: \$6.00 \$3.00 additional class same dog as per above.

Judging: Crash Handling 10:00 AM

Jr. Handling 11:30 AM

Breed: 12:00 NOON

Dogs with one (1) major allowed in competition. Finished Champions may be shown "For Exhibition Only."
 Professional handlers may show only dogs owned by them or by members of their immediate family.
 Food: Available on grounds. Please bring chairs.

Breed Classes: Puppies: 3-6, 6-9, 9-12 Dogs/Bitches: 12-18 mos., American Bred, Open. **JUDGES:**
Eddy Golt, Sweden ME: Working & Working Group, Hound & Hound Group, Group, Herding &
 Herding Group, Junior Handler, BPIM, **Marianne Rousseau, Weare, NH:** Sporting & Sporting
 Group, Toy & Toy Group, Terrier & Terrier Group, Non-Sporting & Non Sporting Group, BAIM.

Directions Fr om I93 nor th or south, take Exit 23. Go east on Rt. 104 eight miles to tr affic lights at Rt. 3. Tur n left
 onto Rt. 3N, go straight at the 4 way traffic lights. Match site is 1/2 mile on right. Look for LRKC signs.

From Alton Bay or Seacoast Area, follow Rt. 11N to traffic lights at junction of Rts.
 11 and 11B (B. Mae Denny's at intersection on right). Turn right onto 11B three miles
 to Rt. 3N (just before Weirs Bridge). Continue on Rt. 3N five miles to traffic lights in
 Meredith. Match site is 1/2 mile on the right.

Sleep a little later, send in a Pre-Entry!!

-----Cut Along This Line-----

PRE-ENTRY FORM Amount Enclosed \$ _____ **Make checks payable to LRKC**

Owner's Name _____

Address _____

e-mail: _____ Tel.: () _____

Dog's Name _____ Age _____ Sex _____ Breed _____

Breed: Class _____

JR Handler Class _____

Please mark Envelope "Match Pre-Entry"(MUST be postmarked on or before April 23)

**and mail with check payable LRKC to : Linda Heath, 304 Chichester Rd. Loudon, NH 03307 FMI (603)848-7149 or e-mail
 border-taussie@gmail.com**





The Lakes Region Kennel Club, Inc.
New Hampshire AKC Member Club
Presents

Dog Obedience Classes

Starting Tuesday April 26, 2016 at
the Meredith Community Center all
classes are 7 weeks

Please contact Linda Heath 848-7149 or
e-mail her at bordertaussie@gmail.com for more information

Please bring proof of your dog's current rabies shots (Veterinarian Certificate or receipt).

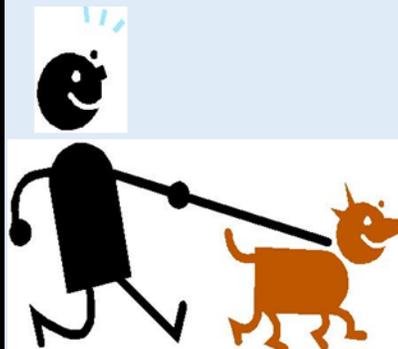
Competition Novice Obedience & Therapy Dog Preparation



Prepare your dog for the Novice Companion Dog Title & Therapy Dog . This Class aims to improve or perfect performance in Novice exercises and develop the attention needed for competition & prepare for the TDI Test. Instructor: Nancy Large. \$85.00

Breed Handling Classes 6:00 PM

This class will help Handlers and their dogs prepare to go from the grooming table to the show ring. Instructor Scott Alexander \$85.00 Drop ins \$15.00

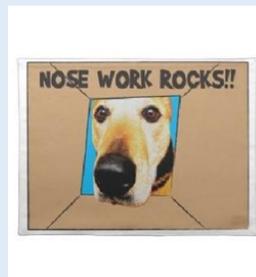


Basic Manners Class 7:00 PM

This class is for puppies that have passed the S.T.A.R. Puppy Class and need more training.
Instructor: Mike Tierney \$85.00

Nose Work Class 7:00 PM

Teach your dog Nose Work.
Instructor in Nancy Large \$85.00



May is National Pet Month



Happy National Pet Month!

May is National Pet Month, a time to highlight the benefits of pet ownership. Traditionally, improved quality of life—for both the pet and owner—has been the main benefit of introducing a pet into your home. However, new information indicates owning and caring for a pet may provide a wellness boost, too.

From **HEALTHFITNESSREVOLUTION**

There's a reason why dogs are called man's best friend. A good friend is loyal, will be there to pick you up when you're down, will keep you on track to reach your goals, and will just be there for you as a companion. And that's exactly what a dog can do for its owner. The mental, physical and social benefits of caring for a dog – or any pet, for that matter – are numerous.

With this article, we will highlight the top 10 health benefits of owning a dog:

Keep you active: Dogs are naturally high-energy companions and love to play and exercise. As a result, dog owners are often inspired toward an active lifestyle to satisfy their dog's needs. Research conducted by the American Heart Association revealed that dog owners were 54 percent more likely to get the recommended amount of exercise than non-dog owners.

Make you happier: Studies show that dog owners are less likely to suffer from depression and have increased levels of serotonin and dopamine, which are "feel good" neurotransmitters, responsible for emotional stability and pleasure.

Live longer: Owning a dog leads to many heart-healthy benefits, such as a decrease in blood pressure, triglycerides and cholesterol levels, overall decreasing the risk for heart disease. One study showed that non-dog owners who had survived a heart attack were more likely to die within a year than dog-owners were.

Boost immunity: Though dogs are often known for being the messiest in the family, getting accustomed to exposure to fur and pet dander decreases the risk of allergies and asthma in children.

Feeling calmer: Dogs provide a calming, familiar presence that decreases stress and anxiety levels. One study revealed that Alzheimer's patients who owned dogs had fewer anxiety-induced outbursts than Alzheimer's patients without dogs.

Promotes social interaction: Dogs provide a natural connection with other people and are great conversation starters. Common questions and comments from dog lovers, owners and social butterflies include, "What breed are they?", "How long have you had them?" and "They're so cute!" These conversation starters cue an instant social connection.

Provides safety and peace of mind: Many times, dogs are adopted for their territorial qualities, providing many people with a sense of security. Dogs also provide a sense of security in terms of health, such as detecting low blood sugar levels and oncoming seizures even before the person recognizes them.

Rehabilitation: Dogs encourage owners to be more active, boosting mental fortitude for recovery.

Provides companionship: The renowned excitability of the beloved canine companion provides an irreplaceable bond between a dog and its owner, thus decreasing loneliness.

Teaches responsibility: Dog ownership enables many – from adults to young children – to learn basic responsibility. From refilling the food bowl to giving the dog a bath, dog owning coaches responsibility because a dog fully relies on its owner for attention, meals and cleanliness.

Lakes Region Kennel Club Announced a Nose Work Class Starting on April 26th at the Meredith Community Center.

The following will provide some background information for this interesting K9 activity.

From **THE BARK** DOG IS MY CO-PILOT®

Activities & Sports

K9 Nose Work

The latest training activity develops your dog's natural scenting abilities through fun and games

By Sandra Mannion



Echo, a slight, 33-pound sighthound mix, boldly bounds through the training-room door. Her tail swishes high and wild as her sensitive nose quivers in anticipation of the scent-searching game about to ensue. Her owner, Amy Cook, releases her into the room full of people with the cue "Find it!" and she surges ahead to explore a random row of cardboard boxes strewn about the floor. Even for a dog-savvy observer, it would be difficult to guess from her puppy-like enthusiasm that Echo is a mature nine-year-old rescue who tends to be shy with strangers. She briefly passes her nose over each box, and as she slows to one in particular, she pokes her head in expectantly. Her "find" is confirmed with a flood of treats and a joyful celebration with her handler. They are both clearly thrilled with her work. "I'm really enjoying finally doing something with Echo that she thoroughly loves," says Cook, "and I have a renewed appreciation of her inherent talents. After all, she's doing something no human can do!"

Echo's work in this case is K9 Nose Work, a recreational sport rapidly exploding in popularity among pet owners. The objective is for the dog to locate a hidden target scent and alert us to its exact whereabouts in the environment. The tables are turned in this activity as the dog teaches the owner to trust the dog's superior scenting capabilities. Constructive physical exercise and intense mental stimulation are among the many benefits to the dog; owners advance to students of behavior by learning to read frequently overlooked subtleties of canine body language. As the dog perfects the game of searching and scenting for a reward, handlers are indoctrinated into the invisible world of scent with their companions as their guides.

Born out of a desire to share what working dogs have revealed in for years, K9 Nose Work as a sport was developed in southern California in 2006 by a team of highly experienced individuals: Amy Herot, Jill Marie O'Brien and Ron Gaunt — all professional trainers and handlers with working certified detection dogs. Herot writes, "Our detection dogs always look so satisfied and are relaxed after a search. It seemed like companion dogs should have the opportunity to enjoy the same benefits." The team adapted essential elements of detection dog training into a motivational and portable sport specifically designed for companion dogs, requiring little space and minimal equipment to practice. When a dog is working his body and mind, the satisfying effects of both physical exercise and mental stimulation can be met even within a small space. "One of the greatest advantages," adds Herot, "is that the sport suits every kind of dog and the activity

requires no previous skill on the part of the handler. Anyone can do it." Inexhaustible puppies, high-drive sport dogs, seniors, socially or physically challenged dogs and happy well-adjusted pets are all given equal access to the positive outlet that scent work provides.

In classic learning environments, like group obedience class, dogs may be either nervous or overstimulated and can have difficulty absorbing new information. Often owners are preoccupied with steering clear of the neighboring dog, and may be frustrated by their pet's wary or overzealous nature. But in the Nose Work classroom, searches are run one by one, allowing dogs with any number of normally challenging behavioral issues to focus and learn. Working individually and without social stimulation allows the dog to channel energy, leaving dog and handler free to concentrate and learn from each other. Natural dog behaviors commonly regarded as "uncivilized" are encouraged as part of drivebuilding in the game of scenting and searching. Pulling through the door excitedly, turning full attention on the environment and leaping about playfully are not considered problem behaviors here. Embarrassed eye rolling and disapproving glances are replaced with laughter and admiration as the dogs are allowed to express themselves and focus on their job.

Bay Area Certified Nose Work Instructor Kelly Dunbar of SIRIUS Dog Training has seen huge transformations in a growing number of Nose Work students. "I've watched environmentally strut around looking proud of himself when we're training." strut around looking proud of himself when we're training."



Mosh and Erica celebrate his

The training process encourages the dog to refine his innate hunting and scenting skills. Handlers are taught to quietly support their dogs as the dogs develop individual searching styles through a progressive series of classes. First, the dog is encouraged to explore multiple open boxes for the scent of a hidden reward — usually a savory treat or a coveted toy for chasing or tugging. Search difficulty is gradually increased by changing environmental variables: closing the boxes, raising the height of the hide, introducing varied objects to the search environment and eventually moving the search outside of the box. While the dog catches on to the game and builds drive for searching, the target odor is paired with the reinforcing treat.

Over time and at the individual team's pace, the handler gains skill in reading behavioral indicators as the dog learns to track the odor trail to its source. Dogs eventually associate the target odor with the reward, which is ultimately removed from the environment and delivered by the handler upon indication of the target odor alone. The thrill of exploration and pursuit seems to magnify the intensity of the game and compound the reward value.

The sport's swift growth beyond its southern California center is a clear indicator of its wide appeal to companion dog owners. Since its inception, classes given by certified instructors have spread quickly up the West Coast and even reached the far corners of the Northeast. Massachusetts-based trainer Scott Williams, of Beyond the Leash Dog Training, has introduced the concept to over 200 dogs in a short eight months. He believes the popularity lies, in part, in the lack of equipment involved. "It doesn't require a large fenced field," he says. "It can be done indoors or out, anytime of the year, and requires relatively little handler involvement. Actually, the less the owner does, the better the dogs like it!"



For handlers wishing to train to a specific standard and test their Nose Work skills, titles can be earned through trials organized and sanctioned by the National Association of Canine Scent. The training process encourages the dog to refine his innate hunting and scenting skills. Handlers are taught to quietly support their dogs as the dogs develop individual searching styles through a progressive series of classes. First, the dog is encouraged to explore multiple open boxes for the scent of a hidden reward — usually a savory treat or a coveted toy for chasing or tugging.

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We humans are ultimately responsible for orchestrating the best decisions for our adored animal companions, but within the realm of scent and K9 Nose Work, we learn to trust our dogs to be our best guides and teachers. Here, the dog is always right, always good, and we are allowed an opportunity to achieve a better understanding of him. Sport founder Herot says, "The nose is such a primary source of information for the dog, and this type of work is a very powerful way to connect with your dog in their world." Evidenced by the smiling faces and clearly content dogs leaving the Nose Work classroom, the sport succeeds as a method for deepening relationships with our canine companions as we learn how they experience the world.

Resources

For more information on competition requirements, tools for training and availability of classes with certified instructors in your area, visit: K9 Nose Work Workshops (<http://funnosework.com/>) and National Association of Canine Scent Work (<http://nacsw.net/>). See The Bark's K9 Nosework Video here (<http://thebark.com/content/k9-nose-work-train-your-dogs-scenting-abilities>).

Sandra Mannion is an Albany, Calif.-based trainer and behavioral consultant. sandramannion.com

Activities & Sports

Activities Trick Training

Promoting mental stimulation

By Julia Kamysz Lane



In the classic game, a ball is placed beneath one of three pails. Your dog shows you which one is hiding the ball.

One of the biggest challenges dog trainers face is how to encourage people to continue training their dogs. Not only will this help dogs remain well behaved, it gives them attention for a lifetime, not just for the course of a sixweek beginner obedience class. Watch someone who genuinely enjoys playing with her dog and you know that dog has a home for life.

No one understands this better than stunt-dog trainer and trick-dog performer Kyra Sundance. Together with her 10-year-old Weimaraner, Chalcy, she has entertained and educated thousands of dog lovers around the world through her live and televised performances, videos and books. She recently created Do More With Your Dog! (<http://domorewithyourdog.com/>), the only official sanctioning and organizing body for the activity of dog tricks. (To see Sundance and Chalcy in action, go to youtube.com/user/kyrasundance.)

Teaching tricks not only teaches skills, but also teaches focus and establishes a pattern of learning in the dog,” says Sundance. “Tricks are taught through positive training methods, which promote a bond between canine and human.”

She shares the story of her two-yearold Weimaraner, Jadie, as a prime example. When Jadie came into her life as a puppy, Sundance was already under contract to complete a puppy-tricks book and DVD. “We started training right away with simple tricks such as ‘sit,’ ‘shake hands,’ ‘spin a circle’ and ‘fetch,’” she says. “We trained in many five-minute sessions per day, and worked on several different tricks per session. We went through a lot of treats!”

Incredibly, at the age of four-and-a-half months, Jadie could perform 50 tricks, including rolling herself in a blanket, getting the newspaper from the mailbox, tidying her toys into a toy box, wiping her paws on a doormat, ringing a bell to go outside and dropping litter into a step can.

“Spending this quality time together while she was a puppy built a bond between us that will last a lifetime,” says Sundance.

Don’t fret if your dog is well beyond the puppy stage. When my nine-yearold Dalmatian, Darby, retired from agility competition due to injury, trick training was the perfect outlet for her high energy and smarts. She already knew basic skills (see box), and eagerly learned more complex tricks such as “roll over” and “jump through a hoop.”

Sundance’s Weimaraners, Chalcy and Jadie, are accomplished performance dogs, having earned titles in agility, obedience, hunting and mushing. “But I’ve got to say, without a doubt, the activity they enjoy most is trick training,” says Sundance. “When you interact with your dog ‘eye-to-eye,’ your dog is staring into your eyes, looking for clues and enjoying your attention.”

While her training background is in competition obedience, in which dogs are expected to perform with exacting precision, Sundance wanted something more. “I sometimes feel constricted by the narrowly defined objectives— the human must get her dog to perform in one specific way,” she says. “In trick training, I feel a much more cooperative spirit. Your dog may offer behaviors that aren’t exactly what you had in mind ... you have the freedom to allow the dog to add his creativity to the trick, to make it uniquely his own.”

Because I missed the joy of performance partnership with Darby, I was thrilled that we had a chance to earn “Trick Dog” titles. Instead of traveling to and competing at a traditional show, the handler asks a friend to witness her dog performing tricks appropriate for the required title level (Novice, Intermediate, Advanced or Expert). The handler then sends paperwork to Do More With Your Dog! or applies online (at domorewithyourdog.com) to qualify her dog for a title certificate.

Darby earned her NTD (Novice Trick Dog) title by performing 15 easy tricks, ranging from “sit” and “down” on command to “peekaboo” and “take a bow.” We’re currently working on her Intermediate Trick Dog title; if she remains physically sound, we’ll go for her ATD (Advanced Trick Dog) and ETD (Expert Trick Dog) titles. It’s exciting to see my senior Spot’s eyes light up when I bring out the clicker and a fistful of treats to try something new.



At the Novice and Intermediate levels, the dog may perform tricks while on-leash; the leash may not be used to physically manipulate the dog to do a trick. At the Advanced and Expert levels, the dog must work off-leash. Of course, physical or verbal corrections are not allowed. Treats are encouraged as a reward, but may not be used as lures beyond the Intermediate level. Tricktraining enthusiasts who earn at least an ITD title are welcome to pursue their CTDI (Certified Trick Dog Instructor), which requires completion of a written test and watching a video demonstrating your dog’s trick basics and how you would teach a new trick from scratch.

Regardless of the level and your reasons for pursuing it, you’re guaranteed to have a happier, healthier dog. “Sometimes we need to remind ourselves that training is fun!” enthuses Sundance. “This joyful attitude builds a bond that will extend into all areas of your life. Trick training teaches the dog that it is safe to offer behaviors, and that is what makes a really trainable dog.”

Shell Game

In the classic game, a ball is placed beneath one of three pails, or shells. The shells are quickly shuffled, and your dog shows you which one is hiding the ball.

What You’ll need: You’ll need three identical flower pots which have a hole at the base allowing your dog to smell the treat underneath. Heavy clay flower pots work well because they won’t overturn easily.

1. Start with just one flower pot and rub the inside with a treat to give it lots of scent. You can even tape a treat inside the pot. Show your dog as you place a treat on the floor and cover it with the pot. Encourage him to “find it!” When he noses or paws the pot, say “good!” (or click your clicker), and lift pot to reward him with the treat.
2. After your dog catches on, hold the pot in place and keep encouraging him until he paws at it. Reward any paw contact, and lift the pot.

3. Add two more pots and hold them in place so your dog doesn't knock them over. Use the pitch of your voice to calm your dog as he sniffs each pot, and to excite him when he shows interest in the correct one. If your dog paws at an incorrect pot, do not lift it; instead encourage him to keep looking.

4. When your dog indicates the correct pot, encourage him until he paws at it, then say "good!" and lift the pot to reveal his reward!

What to expect: Be encouraging with your dog and avoid saying "no." Practice only a few times per session and end with a successful attempt, even if you have to go back to using just one pot to get that success.

Julia Kamysz Lane, owner of Spot On K9 Sports and contributing editor at The Bark, is the author of multiple New Orleans travel guides, including Frommer's New Orleans Day by Day (3rd Edition). Her work has also appeared in The New York Times Magazine, Poets and Writers and Publishers Weekly.

SpotOnK9Sports.com

Photograph Nick Saglimbeni, © Quarry Books.

From **Smithsonian.com**

Call a Dog a Pit Bull and He May Have Trouble Finding a Home

Dogs labeled as pit bulls at shelters may wait three times longer to be adopted—even when they aren't actually pit bulls

By Rachel Nuwer
smithsonian.com
March 23, 2016



An adorable shelter dog shouldn't have a difficult time finding a home—But it might if it comes with the the llabel Pit Bull (LeticiaRose/iStock)

Regardless of a canine's actual breed, simply labeling a dog a "pit bull" can condemn it to a significantly longer stay in a shelter and make it less attractive to potential adopters, concludes a new study in PLOS One. (<http://dx.plos.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0146857>)

Pit bulls are often stereotyped as aggressive and dangerous toward humans, though there is little evidence that those characteristics are inherent to the breed. The breed is popular among the dog fighting crowd, however, which contributes to its reputation for aggressiveness. To complicate matters, when attacks do occur, dogs may be labeled as pit bulls even when they are not. Indeed, in the United States, "pit bull" often serves as a catchall for a handful of breeds ranging from English bulldogs to American Staffordshire terriers; one person's pit bull is another's American bulldog mix

This reputation follows the canines when they land in shelters. When potential adopters look at available dogs, they "don't rate pit bulls any differently than look-alike dogs," says the study's lead author, Lisa Gunter, a graduate student in psychology at Arizona State University. "It's only when we start attaching labels that people begin to perceive them more negatively."

Most shelter dogs are of unknown origin, so employees often have to guess at an animal's breed. Over a 10-year career working in shelters, Gunter noticed that she and her co-workers frequently arrived at different conclusions about a dog's breed. And genetic studies have found significant discrepancies between descriptions of shelter dogs and their actual breed. One study found, for example, that half of the dogs that had been labeled as pit bulls at four Florida shelters had no pit bull ancestry in their DNA.

Gunter and her colleagues undertook a series of studies to find out how those potentially flawed labels might impact an animal's chance of finding a home. They started by showing college students in California and users of the website Reddit photos of three dogs—a Labrador retriever, a pit bull-like dog and a border collie—without attached breed labels and asked questions about each, such as whether the dog looked smart or if the person would feel comfortable approaching it. The team found that participants ranked the pit bull-type dog as lowest on intelligence, friendliness, approachability and adoptability, and highest on aggressiveness and difficulty to train. When the pit bull appeared in a photo with an elderly woman or a child, however, it was rated more favorably.

Next, the researchers asked potential adopters at an Arizona shelter to rank dogs that appeared in photos and short videos on the animals' approachability, intelligence, aggressiveness, friendliness, difficulty to train and adoptability. These scores were then summed to create an "attractiveness" composite for each pooch. To get around possible biases, such as apartment rules about animal sizes or bans on certain breeds, the team used phrases such as, "If circumstances allowed, I would consider adopting this dog," to assess willingness to take a canine home.



Labelled as pitbull



Lookalike labelled as boxer

These two dogs may look similar, but the pit bull label could mean that the one on the left may wait a lot longer to find a home. (Arizona Animal Welfare League)

When the dogs were not labeled as any particular breed, participants ranked pit bulls and look-alikes (dogs that were the same size and color as the pit bulls) as equally attractive. Potential adopters even ranked the pit bulls in video recordings as more attractive than the non-pit bull matches. When the researchers introduced breed labels, however, that trend reversed, with participants ranking the same dog as significantly less attractive than similar dogs without the label.

The researchers also found that pit bulls at that shelter waited over three times as long to find a home as their matched counterparts.

Finally, the team analyzed a set of data from an animal shelter in Florida that recently removed breed descriptions altogether. When freed from the loaded label, pit bull-like dogs were much more likely to find a home. Adoptions of these dogs increased by more than 70 percent, compared with the prior year, and the shelter's euthanasia rate for the same group dropped by 12 percent, probably because more of them were finding homes.

Taken together, these results "are very convincing that breed labels negatively impact any dog that is labeled as 'pit bull,'" says Erica Feuerbacher, who studies dogs at Carroll College in Montana and was not involved in the study. "Furthermore, we know from other studies that humans are quite bad at correctly labeling breeds, so many dogs could be erroneously labeled pit bull—even though they are not—and by that label they become less adoptable."

Eliminating breed labels, which people seem to be using as poor proxies for stereotyped traits, may be the key to banishing a significant amount of dog discrimination—and getting more dogs into homes, Feuerbacher and the other researchers argue. There is also a need to devise better means of measuring dogs' true personalities, including their potential for aggression, and of ensuring those assessments are valid not just in the shelter environment but also in homes, Gunter notes.

"We want to drive the adoption conversation toward evaluating whether an individual dog, regardless of the breed, is a suitable candidate for adoption," she says. "Then we can match-make between the personality of the dog and that of the person, instead of just relying on labels."

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DOGS NH Legislative Update #11



[04/02/2016 DOGS](#)

****** Upcoming Hearing ******

Tuesday, April 5, 2016

The House [Environment and Agriculture Committee](#) will hold a hearing on [SB415](#) – *(New Title) requiring appropriate hydration be made available to certain animals and establishing a committee to study harmful weather conditions for dogs.*

When: 1 p.m. **Where:** Room 303, the Legislative Office Building.

[SB415](#) – *(New Title) requiring appropriate hydration be made available to certain animals and establishing a committee to study harmful weather conditions for dogs.*

SB415 adds “**appropriate hydration**” to the definition of animal cruelty in RSA 644:8, III(a).

Additionally, the original commission has now been changed to a legislative study committee which will “*review the publication entitled, “Animal Cruelty Investigation and Prosecution: A User Manual for New Hampshire Law Enforcement” from the governor’s commission on the humane treatment of animals in order to identify if research dictates temperatures above or below which dogs should be brought inside or any other weather conditions which could be harmful to dogs. The committee may solicit the advice or testimony of any organization with information or expertise relevant to its study.*”

DOGS POSITION: While DOGS supports the addition of appropriate hydration, we do not support a legislative study committee to determine what weather conditions should mandate that dogs have to be brought inside.

A dog’s ability to deal temperature extremes is based on many factors including age, health, physical conditions, metabolism as well as acclimation. Dogs who live outside full time adapt to temperature ranges much the same as humans do. Adequate shelter, ventilation and shade (already covered by New Hampshire law) are much more important to a dog’s ability to withstand weather conditions than a citing a specific temperature.

Please email the House [Environment and Agriculture Committee](#) asking that the study committee be removed from the bill.

Update on Recent Bills

At the Senate [Judiciary Committee](#) a hearing on [HB1547](#) – *prohibiting bestiality*, both the Farm Bureau and the Commissioner of the Department of Agriculture, Markets and Food asked for bestiality to be moved into the Animal Cruelty statutes and for the exceptions to be changed to mirror Maine’s law. The committee is considering the bill and the testimony.

DOGS NH Legislative Update #12

[04/17/2016 DOGS](#)

DOGS' legislative advocacy program is made possible by [contributions](#) from our members and local dog and cat clubs. We are grateful for the continuing support of the Seacoast Cat Club, the New Hampshire Musers Association, the Granite State Shetland Sheepdog Club of South East New Hampshire, the Lakes Region Kennel Club, the Merrimack Valley Kennel Club, the Newfoundland Club of New England, the Souhegan Kennel Club, and the contributions of our supporters.

Many thanks to all our supporters. We really couldn't do this without your help.

Our last two bills!

[SB415](#) – (New Title) requiring appropriate hydration be made available to certain animals and establishing a committee to study harmful weather conditions for dogs.

The House Environment and Agriculture Committee voted SB415 "Inexpedient to Legislate" unanimously and it will be on the Consent Calendar on April 20. From the House Calendar:

"Rep. Peter Bixby for Environment and Agriculture. This bill would have added a requirement for hydration for domestic animals to statute, and would have created a committee to study harmful weather conditions for dogs. Current law requires that sustenance be provided, which includes hydration, making this change in law redundant. The Governor's Commission on the Humane Treatment of Animals has studied and continues to study all aspects of animal welfare and provides a manual of standards and training for local police. A study committee is unnecessary. We also heard testimony that the variability in dog breeds and acclimatization makes it impossible to develop a blanket statement concerning weather that is harmful to dogs."

[HB1547](#) – *prohibiting bestiality* –The Senate Judiciary Committee has recommend Ought To Pass with Amendment. The [amendment](#) moves the language of the bill into the animal cruelty statutes as suggested by the Farm Bureau and the Department of Agriculture and requires anyone convicted of bestiality to register as a sex offender. It preserves the exceptions for

- (a) Accepted veterinary medical practices.
- (b) Insemination of animals for the purpose of procreation.
- (c) Accepted animal husbandry practices that provide necessary care for animals.

AKC News



The American Kennel Club Adds New Event with Fast CAT

The American Kennel Club is pleased to announce the launch of a new event called Fast CATSM.

The Fast CAT test is a timed 100-yard-dash where a dog chases a lure. Dogs are run one at a time. It is a fun and healthy activity for dogs and their owners that answers the intriguing question – how fast can my dog run? The event is open to all dogs that are at least twelve months of age and are individually registered or listed with the AKC (registered purebred, FSS, PAL or AKC Canine Partner).

“The popularity of the coursing ability test demonstrates the enthusiasm of a dog when their inner instinct is awakened,” says Doug Ljungren, Vice President for Sports & Events. “Now that same enthusiasm can be timed to determine how fast your dog can run. Who knows, you may have a national caliber track star sitting next to you. The national rankings by breed will show how your dog compares.”

All AKC clubs currently licensed to hold lure coursing trials or coursing ability tests are automatically licensed to hold Fast CAT and can begin to hold events immediately. All other AKC member or licensed clubs may apply to the Performance Events Department (PerformanceEvents@akc.org) to become licensed to hold Fast CAT, provided they have the experience, equipment and location to hold a safe event. Another option is for clubs that have a suitable location but may not have the knowledge or manpower to hold Fast CAT to consider partnering with an existing AKC lure coursing club to hold Fast CAT in conjunction with their event. Fast CAT may be held as either a stand-alone event or in conjunction with other AKC events. In all cases the Fast CAT test must be applied for as a separate event with its own event number.

Additional information is posted on the AKC’s Fast CAT webpage:

<http://emessage.akc.org/ZLB1Q0mlv000020ev20MFQd>

ACE Winner Inspires Creation Of Monument To Honor K-9 Officers



2014 AKC Humane Fund Award For Canine Excellence winner Bruno, a retired K-9, was the inspiration for a monument honoring K-9 officers that was unveiled in Anaheim, California last week.

.Bruno, a [German Shepherd Dog](#), was injured in the line of duty in March 2014 when he and Officer RJ Young were on the trail of an armed suspect. The suspect opened fire and a bullet went through Bruno's jaw and chest, collapsing his lung. After weeks in intensive care, Bruno recovered but as since retired from his K-9 duties. He received the [Uniformed Services K-9 ACE honor in 2014](#).

to honor Bruno and other K-9 officers, the city of Anaheim unveiled a bronze sculpture titled "Valor" at the La Palma Dog Park, according to [CBS Los Angeles](#). Bruno and other K-9 officers were present at the unveiling yesterday. See a video of the unveiling event from CBS Los Angeles: <http://emessage.akc.org/p0100Q0mpF0204BLvM0QeI2>

Lakes Region Kennel Club Members Brags

Owner's Name: _____

Dog's Name: _____

Brag: _____

Please email brags to polakowski@att.net so they can be published in the Pawprint.
Pictures are welcome too.

Please send photos of your dogs so I can put them in the Pawprint.

Example: Here is a picture of Tux playing Frisbee.

