



June 2016

Pawprint

Official Publication of The Lakes Region Kennel Club-NH

AKC Member Club

www.lakesregionkennelclub.org

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Next Meeting

July 11th

Meredith Center Fire Station

6:00 PM Board Meeting

6:30 PM General Meeting



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
June 6, 2016

Meeting Called to Order: 6:34

Members Present: Linda Heath, Corina Alexander, Barb Champaigne, Deb Mardin, Ken Polakowski, Mike Tierney, Cathy Barber, Nancy Large, Lori Davis, Julie Boyer

Motion made by Lori Davis to accept the May 2016 meeting minutes as published with one minor correction. Seconded and passed

Presidents Report: No Report

Recording Secretary Report: No report

Corresponding Secretary Report: Absent

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

Committees Reports:

- AKC Delegate: The club delegate is going to resign in September. Brief discussion on who we can get to replace her.
- Barn Hunt: There will be a practice on F the 24th before the two day event. Plans were brought to make a cradle for the rat tubes for the instinct test. Gates will open at noon at the fairgrounds.
- Handling, Obedience, Performance Classes: The week of bike week classes will be not be held (June 14th). After this session classes will resume on September 6th. Motion made by Lori Davis for the club to pay for members to become CGC certified testers. Seconded and passed
- Scholarship: The scholarships were presented to the veterinary technicians at the University of New Hampshire. An application was received for the veterinary student scholarship. Motion made by Nancy Large to accept the received application. Seconded and passed
- Pet Oxygen Masks: Money collected from various establishments
- Nose work trial: Match is June 14th at Compass Classic Academy in Franklin NH. A Facebook event page has been made. The trial will be held on July 17th and starts at 8am with a judges meeting. The trial will be held at Meredith Community Center. A Facebook event has been made for the trial also. For more information please go to <https://www.performancescentdogs.com/>
- Tracking: Put on hold till we are done with the current trials we have planned.
- Website: Statistics have been turned on to track the amount of traffic to our site
- Membership: Motion made by Nancy Large to accept Julie Boyer's application for membership. Seconded and passed

Unfinished business: The fence the club is storing was a donated fence for the dog park. An article in the paper indicated that there was a large sum of money donated to the dog park for installation of the fencing for the dog park.

Meeting adjourned at: 7:41

Respectfully submitted, Deborah Mardin, Recording Secretary

Next meeting: July 11, 2016 Meredith Center Fire Department

July 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
					I Hockamock Kennel Club, Inc. - Cracker-barrel Frgnds - Emerald St. - Wrentham, MA	2 Hockamock Kennel Club, Inc. - Crackerbarrel Frgnds - Emerald St. - Wrentham, MA
3 Wampanoag Kennel Club, Inc. - Crack-erbarrel Frgnds - Emerald St. - Wren-tham, MA	4	5	6 Naugatuck Valley Kennel Club - Eastern States Expo - 1305 memorial Ave. - West Springfield, MA	7 Naugatuck Valley Kennel Club - Eastern States Expo - 1305 memorial Ave. - West Springfield, MA	8 Kenilworth Kennel Club of Connecticut, Inc. - Eastern States Expo - 1305 memori-al Ave. - West Spring-field, MA	9 Farmington Valley Kennel Club, Inc. - Eastern States Expo - 1305 Memorial Ave. - West Springfield, MA
10 Holyoke Kennel Club, Inc. -- Eastern States Expo 1305 Memorial Ave. - West Springfield, MA	11 6:00 Board Meeting 6:30 General Meeting Meredith Center Fire Station	12	13	14	15 Woodstock Dog Club, Inc. - Tunbridge Fairgrounds - Route 110 - Tunbridge, VT	16 Green Mountain Dog Club, Inc. - Tun-bride Fairgrounds - Route 110 - Tun-bridge, VT
17 LRKC PSD Trial - Meredith Communi-ty Center - Meredith, NH	18	19	20	21	22	23 Collie Club of New England, Inc. - Wide World of In-door Sports - North - 621 Pound Hill Rd. - North Smithfield, RI
24	25	26	27	28 Burlington Obe-dience Training Club - The Field House - 166 Athletic Dr. - Shelburne, VT	29 Burlington Obe-dience Training Club - The Field House - 166 Athletic Dr. - Shelburne, VT	30 North Shore Kennel Club - Ameri-can K9 Country - 336 Route 101 - Am-herst, NH
31 North Shore Kennel Club - Ameri-can K9 Country - 336 Route 101 - Am-herst, NH						

More pets get lost on July 4th than any other day of the year.

Source: HomeAgain

Keep your dog safe this Independence Day.

Share these eight tips for enjoying the Fourth of July with your dog.



Be sure your dog is wearing an up-to-date and visible ID tag on her collar at all times.



Take a current photo of your dog, just in case.



Exercise your dog early in the day before parties begin.



During cookouts, ask guests to play with your dog away from the flames.



Keep dog treats on hand for those who want to give your dog food.



Leave your dog at home with a frozen stuffed treat during the fireworks.



Keep charcoal, fireworks, sparklers and glow sticks far from curious canines.



If your dog is afraid of loud noises, leave gentle music playing to cover the fireworks.

Petfinder
SUMMER Pet
Safety

Learn more at www.petfinder.com/SummerPetSafety



LRKC Member Brags

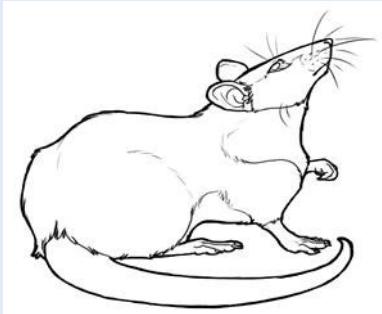
Sonshine's A Touch of Grace RN, BN, ME, RATN, CGCA
"Grace" owned by Linda Heath earned her Master Earth
Dog title.



LRKC BARN HUNT 6/25-6/26



Happy Rat



Saturday - 6/25/2016 Trial 1

Instinct Medium 8:30 AM
Instinct Large 8:33 AM
Novice Small 9:00 AM
Novice Medium 9:02 AM
Novice Large 9:10 AM
Open Small 9:45 AM
Open Medium 9:50 AM
Open Large 10:00 AM
Senior Small 10:20 AM
Senior Medium 10:25 AM
Master Small 10:45 AM
Master Medium 10:50 AM
Master Large 11:20 AM

Saturday Trial 2 will begin with Master. Depending on the time we may have lunch after the 1st Trial or after Master 2.

Sunday 6/26/2016 Trial 1

Instinct Small 8:30 AM
Instinct Large 8:32 AM
Novice Small 9:00 AM
Novice Medium 9:05 AM
Novice Large 9:10 AM
Open Small 9:20 AM
Open Large 9:23 AM
Senior Small 9:45 AM
Senior Medium 9:50 AM
Master Small 10:20 AM
Master Medium 10:28 AM
Master Large 10:45 AM

Sunday Trial 2 will begin with Master. Depending on the time we may have lunch after the 1st Trial or after Master 2.

Performance Scent Dogs Trial in Meredith, NH

MagnifiScents

Sunday July 17th, 2016

Premium List



Hosted by

Lakes Region Kennel Club

Trial Location:

Meredith Community Center

1 Circle Drive
Meredith, NH 03253

Meredith is a prime vacation destination so please allow ample time for possibly heavy traffic conditions

Trial will take place indoors and outdoors beginning at 8am with Excellent & Advanced Exteriors and Distance
TOT's will begin at 9am – Please see full premium page 2 for a detailed Class Run Order

TOT:

Birch, Anise and Clove

Classes Offered:

Buildings, Exteriors, Speed, Distance, and Containers

Levels Offered:

Novice, Advanced and Excellent

Divisions Offered:

FEO, Standard, or Metallics

Lead Judge for the day: Jason Thomas

Entries are limited and accepted on a first received basis until classes fill.

You may enter on-line or by mail - one entry per dog. All entries must be received by July 10, 2016.

Entry open date: June 9, 2016

Move up date: July 10, 2016

Entry close date: July 10, 2016 or when classes fill

Day of Show entries accepted if runs are still available: \$20.00 each (email the trial secretary)

Performance Scent Dogs is a national scent work non-profit organization dedicated to growing the sport of scent detection.

The premium can be found on our site here:

http://www.lakesregionkennelclub.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/LRKC_Final_Premium.pdf

or on the PSD web site here:

https://performancescentdogs.com/uploads/trial/document/52/LRKC_Final_Premium.pdf



LRKC hosted a PSD match on June 14th. A total of 16 runs were completed by the participants. The following is a gallery of pictures from the event.





Did Man Make His Best Friend Twice?

June 10, 2016 11:03 AM ET

Commentary

Alva Noe: <http://www.npr.org/people/336061213/alva-no>



According to a new hypothesis put forward by an international team of geneticists and archeologists, dogs may have been domesticated in two different places from genetically distinct wolf populations in Europe and in East Asia.

Dogs today, according to the study published in *Science* last week, are the result of the interbreeding of these two quite distinct populations from Europe and East Asia. And they continue to bear the genetic traces of not one, but two distinct — and now probably extinct — species of ancestral wolves.

The science is complicated and involves the analysis and comparison of ancient dog remains and modern dogs, together with information about the age and distribution of dog remains across the Eurasian continent. There is still so much we don't know — the evolutionary history of dogs is complicated and there are uncertainties about mutation rates and generation times, and the archeological record is incomplete — so the hypothesis remains just that for the time being, a hypothesis.

But what a suggestive one!

Dogs are the first species, animal or plant, to be domesticated by humans, long before the advent of agriculture. But, presumably, not as the result of any conscious decision or plan on the part of humans.

There is a familiar and plausible story about how this might have happened.

The setting: Ancient humans encamped around a fire in a forbidding wilderness. Wolves encircled them beyond the perimeter of light, unable to attack but presumably satisfied to scavenge what they could pick off or pick up at the edges.

We can imagine that the wolves were a controllable danger at the periphery that came, in time, to serve as something of a buffer — that is to say, a living alarm signal of the approach of strangers (animal or human) in the dark night. The presence of wolves, outside the ring of light, at a safe distance, was a sign that all was normal on the outside, that is was safe to fall asleep.

Against the setting of this sort of interdependence, it is easy to imagine that some wolves — those brave enough to move in closer but also sensitive enough to do so in a way that didn't provoke violent attack on the part of the humans — would have had more access to uneaten food or other remains the people tossed aside.

Wolves who were savvy to the state of mind of nearby humans — presumably most were not — would have been rewarded with a reproductive advantage relative to their fellows. And for their part, humans comfortable with the making of a cross-species alliance — friendship — would have been likewise rewarded by, among other things, ever greater security.

After a few generations you'd have wolves and people growing not only increasingly tolerant of each other but also increasingly cooperative. Dogs, that is to say wolves, who were at home in the orbit of people would in this way have just "showed up" in the experience of people. Or, perhaps we should say, people who found it natural to look at dogs as potential kin made their appearance on the stage of life. And, crucially, not as the result of any conscious plan or act of bio-engineering. Domestication, then, would have just happened.

Who domesticated whom?

If you think about it, the process I have just described — the story is told beautifully by Neil deGrasse Tyson in the first installment of *Cosmos* — differs only in degree, and not in kind, from the story of human encounters with other humans. It is the story of the birth of new species but also the establishment of community.

It should not be a cause for wonder, then, that we can look into the eyes of dogs and recognize living beings deserving of our love and care. Dogs are not strangers. They are here because of us, just as, in truth, we are here, in the manner in which we are now here, because of them.

Recent studies show that humans *and* dogs, when they communicate with each other, experience similar patterns of oxytocin release as humans do in relation to other humans. Oxytocin is associated with attachment. It isn't that dogs *are* human. No more than it would be right to say that we are dogs. But what it is to be a dog, and to be a human, are not entirely independent of each other.

Life is like that. Its causal dynamics are circular. Life is co-becoming. Another example: There is color in nature — signaling ripeness or fertility or danger — precisely because there are animals who can see. A world in which there were no eyes to see would be a world in which things tended to the black and white.

In general, in the biological and in the social worlds, variation is the thing, not stable or fixed differences. And variation is a field of change and becoming.

Given this, it isn't surprising that the dog "domestication event" happened more than once. (Vision has also evolved more than once.)

The real headline, then, is not that humans domesticated dogs twice. But that humans, always, have been changing and changed by the larger inhabited world in which we find ourselves.

How many times have humans domesticated themselves?

Alva Noë is a philosopher at the University of California, Berkeley, where he writes and teaches about perception, consciousness and art. He is the author of several books, including his latest, Strange Tools: Art and Human Nature (Farrar Straus and Giroux, 2015). You can keep up with more of what Alva is thinking on Facebook and on Twitter: [@alvanoe](#)

FROM: The New York Times

N.Y. / Region

How to Heal a Traumatized Dog: Read It a Story

Pet City

By ANDY NEWMAN JUNE 9, 2016

"Hi, Violet," said the man in the orange "ASPCA Volunteer" shirt. He set up a little folding camp stool, fired up his iPad and began to read aloud in a gentle, even voice.

"The sun, coming in flat, knocks a prismatic oval out of the tumbler and lays it on the ceiling."

Inside her glass kennel on Monday afternoon, Violet, a black-and-white pit bull mix, lay on her bed with her head held low.

After a few more sentences, something shifted in violet and she cocked her head toward the man,

Ricky Gitt, for a few seconds: a brief moment of connection.

Through the doors of the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals on the Upper East Side pass hundreds of dogs rescued by the police in abuse cases. The society's goal is to get them adopted, but many are so traumatized that they cannot handle human contact.

That's where story time comes in.

For 20-minute stretches, volunteers read to dogs, who listen through "sniff holes" in the glass of their kennels.

"We need to get the dogs comfortable with what they'll be seeing when they're put up for adoption," said Victoria Wells, the society's senior manager of behavior and training. "People looking at them, people walking and handling them. This is the very first step in that process. It's hands-off socialization."

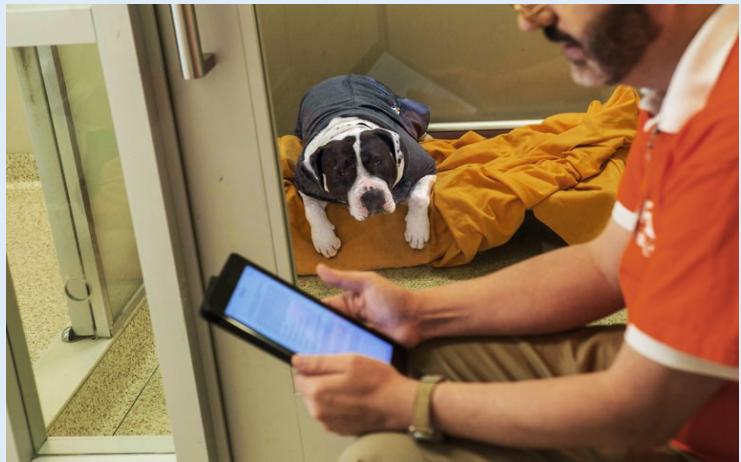
The reading material does not seem to matter much. Mr. Gitt, 58, an interior designer, happened to have started the Wallace Stegner novel "Crossing to Safety." Other readers bring children's books or magazines.

"As long as you read in a nice soothing voice, they enjoy it," said Hildy Benick, 69, a volunteer who has been with the reading program since shortly after it started, in late 2013.

Ms. Wells got the idea for the program after years of playing guitar — mostly Beatles songs — to recovering dogs. "Not everyone knew how to do that, and I wanted to come up with something anyone could do," she said.

The benefits of reading are hard to measure since the dogs also get a full range of training and behavioral therapy. But it makes a difference, Ms. Wells said.

You know within each session the progress that they're making," she said. "In the beginning of the session, the dog might be in the back of their kennel cowering, and then they move forward, lie down, relax; their tail might wag."



Ricky Gitt, a volunteer at the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals in Manhattan, reading to Violet, a dog recovering from abuse. Credit Hiroko Masuike/The New York Times

The society believes that its program might have been the first in the country in which dogs are read to as part of their recovery, though others have sprung up, and children learning to read have been reading aloud to therapy dogs — who help by providing a nonjudgmental audience — for years.

Violet, who is about 2 years old, was found lying on a sidewalk in Queens Village in April, unable to stand.

"We thought she was dying," said Lindsay Thorson, a veterinarian at the society's Animal Recovery Center, on the second floor of its hospital on East 92nd Street. Tests showed that Violet was physically healthy. "It turned out that she was frozen in fear and would not move," Dr. Thorson said.

The society and the police do not know Violet's back story. Other dogs at the Animal Recovery Center had been starved, beaten, stabbed or shot. Most are good candidates for the reading program, said Kris Lindsay, manager of the recovery center. The police and the society would not give details of many of the dogs' cases because they are subjects of open criminal investigations.

Around the corner, at the society's Canine Annex for Recovery and Enrichment, where abuse victims are transferred when they don't need as much medical care, Ms. Benick entertained another pit bull mix, Margarita, with an adaptation of the Garth Stein best seller "The Art of Racing in the Rain," which is narrated by a dog.

"He picked me out of a pile of puppies, a tangled, rolling mass of paws and ears and tails," Ms. Benick read. Margarita, who was rescued in February by the Police Department's Animal Cruelty Investigation Squad in a neglect case, approached the sniff hole and looked up adoringly at Ms. Benick.

As Ms. Benick noted, any old text will do. Later in the afternoon, she was reading news articles off her phone in the cheery, singsong tones of a kindergarten teacher to her old friend Dudley, yet another pit bull mix, who was found in the Bronx in December locked in a cage without food or water. After a knee operation, he is now available for adoption.

Another volunteer, Deborah Lancman, favors thrillers. "I read three Ian Fleming James Bond books to dogs," said Ms. Lancman, a part-time administrative assistant. "They haven't told me they minded."

Monday's selection was the John le Carré page-turner "The Night Manager." Ms. Lancman quickly got down to business with Chickpea, an energetic pit bull mix whose medical condition requires her to be on strict cage rest.

"On a snow-swept January evening of 1991...," she read. Chickpea began to settle down.

Email: petcity@nytimes.com

Pet City

A biweekly column that deals with all manner of pets and their owners in New York City.

Missing woman found alive by MESARD K9 team

Chad_Jenga. Celebrate

Hi Everyone,

Another 76 year old woman with dementia was reported missing 5am Monday morning, and many members of MESARD (Maine Search and Rescue Dogs <http://www.mesard.org/>) were deployed to search for her. With the weather at night turning cold, raining, and gusty winds, it was a life saving mission. The planning team on the Maine Wardens Service were in full gear, assigning K9 search teams as much area to get out and find her, somewhere off Spruce Road in Greenville Maine.

Kobuk & I joined the search and hit the woods at 10pm until 2am, then a 2 hour nap, had us right back out at 6:30 am yesterday morning. Lots of members of MESARD arrived to search again the second day. Right after this pretty photo of Kobuk & me in the field of lupine (taken by Anne Wilder), we slurping through the sludge of a swamp, and Kobuk was literally "stuck in the mud" with all 4 paws buried up to his belly. When I tried to help him pull himself out, I also sunk to my hip in the muck! Ahhhh, the joys of being on a search dog team (as we always get the swamps and muddy paws!). It is with great joy that I share with all of you that my teammate Chad & Jenga located the missing woman around 5pm last night, and saved her life! It was such a thrill, and I am so proud of them. They are an outstanding search dog team, and a great contribution to MESARD. Check out this story on our team Facebook page (Maine Search and Rescue Dogs) and our team website <http://www.mesard.org/> and the attached photo: Jenga is a Dutch Shepherd (pretty girl) and Kobuk's buddy.

Thank you all again for voting for Kobuk, and only 8 more voting days until 6/22 so please share this story.

Kobuk

Elizabeth Fossett & K9 Kobuk
Search Dog Team
Maine Search and Rescue Dogs
MESARD.ORG (and find us on Facebook)



Kobuk

KOBUK TO THE RESCUE! Everyone began to feel the urgency knowing we were searching for a 77 year old woman with d...



FROM:

Daily Mail
.com

Meet the adorable comfort dogs who have flown from all over the country to support relatives, victims and volunteers in Orlando

- More than a dozen comfort dogs were dispatched to Orlando on Monday
- They will go to hospitals, churches, vigils, and people's homes
- Comfort dogs are brought up to provide emotional support to humans

By Mia De Graaf For Dailymail.com

Published: 15:54 EST, 14 June 2016 | Updated: 03:40 EST, 15 June 2016

Comfort dogs have been dispatched to Orlando to support grieving relatives, wounded victims and first-responders in the wake of the nightclub shooting.

More than a dozen golden retrievers and dog handlers arrived in the Florida city from all over the country on Monday.

After meeting for instructions in the city center, they were each sent to different scenes - vigils, hospitals, police stations, homes, and the Lutheran Church's LGBT outreach center.

They are brought up to provide emotional support for humans at times of stress and devastation.



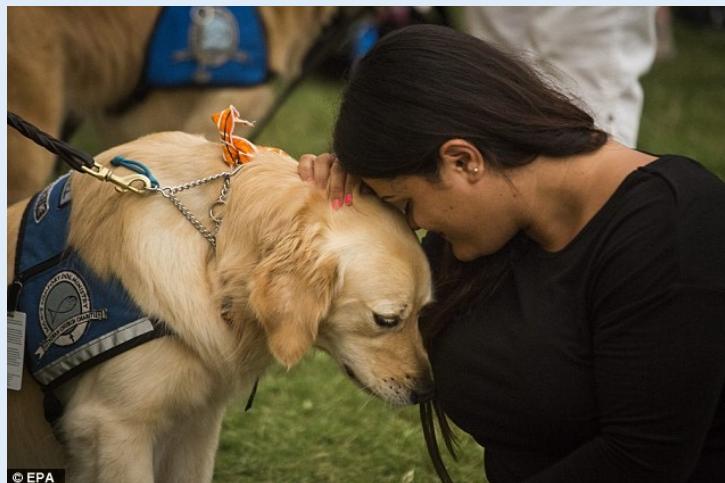
Pictured: The team of more than a dozen golden retrievers and dog handlers who arrived in Orlando, Florida, on Monday. They flew from all over the country, as far as Illinois, Nebraska, Tennessee, and South Carolina



They are brought up to provide emotional support for humans at times of stress and devastation. Pictured: Jacob of Indiana and Ruthie of Chicago sitting with some volunteers in the Florida city on Tuesday



Golden retrievers are commonly recruited for the role, since they tend to be calm and friendly to strangers



Melissa Soto shares an emotional moment with Susie the comfort dog in the wake of the tragedy



Susie lies down surrounded by mourners at the memorial site in Orlando

Comfort dogs are regularly dispatched to scenes of a shooting or terror attack - including Boston after the marathon bombing, Oregon after Umpqua Community College's school shooting last year, and to Sandy Hook in 2012.

But Orlando will see one of the biggest 'national deployments' of golden retrievers to date as the city - and the nation - reels following the deadliest mass shooting in US history.

Jane Marsh-Johnson, 'top dog handler' for the Lutheran Church Charity's nationwide comfort dog network, told Daily Mail Online she believes dogs have a quality that humans cannot get from one another. One of the team is Phoebe, one of just two comfort dogs in Texas.

She spends most of her time in hospices in her native Fort Worth.

But she was one of the dozen chosen to put regular duties on pause to attend to Orlando.

Gracie hails from Davenport, Iowa.

According to Gracie's handler, the five-year-old allows people to 'open up their hearts and receive help for what is affecting them'.

She was one of a number of dogs sent to a major vigil in the city on Tuesday.

Sasha has traveled from Hiltonhead, South Carolina.

She has been dispatched out of state four times, including to Oregon after the school shooting and to Illinois after a family died in a plane crash.



Supporting the city: Many of the team visited officers who have worked round the clock since the attack



Sasha (pictured) has traveled from Hiltonhead, South Carolina. She has been dispatched out of state four times, including to Oregon after the school shooting and to Illinois after a family died in a plane crash



Ruthie (right), from Chicago, spent the day with police officers and first responders before attending a vigil





After meeting for instructions in the city center, they were each sent to different scenes - vigils, hospitals, police stations, homes, and the Lutheran Church's LGBT outreach center. This photo was posted by Gracie



© Mahlah Comfort Dog/ Facebook



© Mahlah Comfort Dog/ Facebook

Mahlah, from Illinois, spent Tuesday at a vigil supporting well-wishers, and visited a hotel (pictured, left) where relatives of wounded and killed victims were staying



The team is also joined by Jewel from Loudon, Tennessee, Susie from Illinois, and Katie from Nebraska

Ruthie comes from Chicago. She spent the day with police officers and first responders before also attending a vigil.

Mahlah, from Illinois, spent Tuesday at a vigil supporting well-wishers, and visited a hotel where relatives of wounded and killed victims were staying.

Kye, of Belvedere, Illinois, spent time with victims.

A photo was posted on Kye's official Facebook page showing him with a Pulse employee called Russell.

The caption, written from Kye's perspective, said: 'When I first saw Russell he was surrounded by the media. A local LGBT activist and an employee of Pulse, he had a lot of people wanting to interview him. But when he and I met, there wasn't as much talking as there was petting.'

Hannah of Illinois was pictured lying around with a group of volunteers who looked emotional and exhausted.

Jacob of Indiana was pictured giving a TV interview between a vigil and visiting first responders.

The team is also joined by Jewel from Loudon, Tennessee, Susie from Illinois, and Katie from Nebraska - among others.

The service is entirely donation-funded, and the Lutheran Church set up a donation site for support to get their sizeable crew to Orlando.



One of the team is Phoebe, one of just two comfort dogs in Texas. She spends most of her time in hospices in her native Fort Worth. But she was one of the dozen chosen to put regular duties on pause to attend to Orlando

WHAT IS A COMFORT DOG?

A comfort dog is a friend who brings a calming influence to people.

Golden retrievers are commonly recruited for the role, since they tend to be calm and friendly to strangers.

The idea dates back to the 1970s, when a New Jersey-based nurse Elaine Smith saw that her patients were calmed by visits from a chaplain's dog.

Smith founded Therapy Dogs International to build a network of animals that love humans and can be dispatched to patients in need.

According to the [TDI website](#), studies show the dogs have helped lower patients' blood pressure and helped draw some out of depression.

From:



the guild of
Shepherds & Collies

The Herding Dog's Advantage in Scent Detection Sports

Posted on June 12th, 2016 by Eva Raczka



Herding Dogs Excel in the “NEW” Venue of Scent Detection

It's no secret that herding breed dogs excel when it comes to using their noses. Herding breeds are often used for tracking and locating humans in police activities such as search and rescue. Finding drugs, detecting firearms, and locating explosives are other areas where the keen nose of a herding breed dog is often employed. Training and working with a highly skilled detection dog is almost like magic; watching a dog “read” a scent and locate the source of the odor they are trained to find, is truly amazing.

In the past, if you wanted to train a dog in scent detection, you were most likely associated with law enforcement, military, or working in search and rescue. Several canine registries had tracking options, but the overall venue was fairly small. For the most part, only a small group of people were able to see dogs use their powerful sense of smell. Recently, however, a new opportunity for training and working dogs in scent detection has been developed and is offered all over North America by many registries, certifying bodies, and training clubs. Created for any dog and human partner, the sport is great fun ... especially for herding breed dogs!

Nosework or Scent Detection - A Sport for Herding Breed Dogs

The sport is often called “Nosework” or “Scent Detection” and requires the dog to locate a Q-tip, scented with essential oils, that is hidden out of sight on a course, in a designated amount of time. Oil scent options include Sweet Birch, Anise, Clove, Wintergreen, and even Myrrh .

There are tests, ribbons, and titles that a dog can earn as they participate in scent detection! Many people are satisfied just having a little game to play with their dog, and this sport is perfect for that as well.

Should you choose to compete, the venue or certifying body in which you choose to compete in dictates the odor that the dogs are trained and tested on. Most start with sweet birch, however in Canada, the dogs start with winter-green. Regardless of the odor, it is very important you have the EXACT species or scent that the dog will be looking for, otherwise it can confuse the dog. The essential oils are lightly applied to Q-tip cotton ends. These odor-laced ends are then put in small tins, tiny sleeves, or other itty-bitty containers to hide them from view and also prevent the oil from coming in contact with and contaminating the surface they are hidden on or in. The tins and tiny containers are placed on a course where they sit for a period of time (called cooking) before the dog and handler run the course to try and find the exact point of the hidden oil-laced Q-tips. Cooking the scent (the time it sits on the course, waiting) makes the scent spread like smoke and can make the scent easier or harder to find, depending on the temperature and conditions.

Courses can include indoor rooms, containers (anything that can hold a scent tin or sleeve is a container - be creative!), vehicles, and exteriors of buildings. In a competition, the scent tins and sleeves can be hidden almost anywhere and it is almost impossible to see them as they are so well hidden. Designated people ensure the hide is legal per the rules of the venue and that it is not seen by the handler or dog running the course. Handlers and dogs walk into the course with no idea where the odor is placed. Typically there is some kind of start line and the search area is roped off or marked. The team starts their search and the dog starts sniffing! Hopefully the team finds the source of the odor on their own, but even if they don't, they are taken to the hide and can be generously rewarded with treats and praise!

Searching for odor takes training, finesse, and a lot of patience. Dogs must learn value for the odor through training and handlers must learn to watch their dog's behaviors for subtle cues that the dog is "in odor". There are many ways a team can start this sport. Typically, treats are paired with the odor to build a sense of value for the odor. When dogs find the odor, they get a treat and before too long they associate the odor with high reward. They develop an "indication" or behavior that they do in the presence of the odor which the handler must learn to identify and "read". The handler tells the judge that the dog located the odor on the course and it is that location or call that the team is "graded" on.

Besides the benefit of working with your canine partner to learn a new skill, scent detection can be done practically anywhere. In the Northeast, I can spend all winter training in rooms of my house, the garage, or in the basement - it's great! The sport gives busy dogs something to do and is great for older dogs that need a less active sport to pursue. Dogs with reactivity or dogs that have issues with other dogs can do very well in specific Nosework venues that understand certain dogs need distance. Dogs that lack confidence or focus can blossom in this sport. Regardless of whether you want to compete or not, canine scent detection can offer lots to you and your dog! It's like canine hide and go seek!

If you are interested in giving this "game" a try with your herding dog, there is a lot of information out there on the internet. Read as much as you can about the sport, then try and find a trainer local to you that specializes scent detection. You can learn the proper way to start and also what different venues are out there. A good trainer will get you off on the right foot!

If your herding breed dog loves using his nose to find a treat, a person, or a toy and you want to develop this game into something more regular and challenging, try canine scent detection. You will enjoy it and your pup will thank you!

Article By:
Eva Raczka
Meet Our Evangelist



Article image from Eva Raczka: Pi (a Belgian Tervuren) looks for Birch on the bumper of a trailer in a Performance Scent Dogs trial. March 2016

From:



the guild of
Shepherds & Collies

The Barn Hunt Buzz

Posted on January 20th, 2016 by Eva Raczka

By now you have probably heard rumors of a “new” dog sport sweeping the nation - involving barns, straw, rats and PVC tubes. With THAT combination, most people are immediately intrigued. Does Barn Hunt use wild rats? Are the rats scared? Do the dogs hurt the rats? This article shall explain what Barn Hunt is and is not, how it came to be and why you should give it a try with your dog!

Barn Hunt is the fastest growing dog sport to hit North America and is growing in leaps and bounds - daily. It is really no wonder - it is great fun for people and dogs! It takes a dog’s natural instinct to find quarry, builds in a requirement of teamwork and offers plenty of challenge and strategy for both dog and human!

“Barn Hunts” are not new in concept. Built on the age old canine job of vermin hunting, barn hunts were developed to showcase ratting instinct without risk to people, dogs or rats. Barn Hunts were often a side event to some Earthdog and Terrier trials, and were purely for fun or as a special attraction. Enter Robin Nuttall - the founder of Barn Hunt Association or BHA, Inc. Robin has Doberman Pinschers and Miniature Pinschers, and has tried for years to have her Min Pins allowed in AKC Earthdog events. AKC denied the initial requests so Robin took the sport she had seen at terrier trials (Barn Hunt) and created the venue “formally” so her Min Pins could employ their instincts. Robin left the event open to all breeds regardless of size and so begins the craze...

Barn Hunt is open to all breeds and mixes, age six months and up as long as they can safely navigate a course and fit through an 18” wide tunnel that is about 22” tall. Deaf and three legged dogs can participate, too. The venue is excellent for retired older dogs, people and dogs that have physical limitations and for anyone looking to enjoy a mock hunt in a fun environment. While overall the sport can be less demanding on teams, upper levels can be a very active and demanding sport. Runs are timed and can be QUITE challenging and competitive for human and dog alike.

For those that enjoy a good healthy competition...Barn Hunt offers titles from the instinct certificate (RATI) all the way up to a Championship (RATCH) with lots of titles in between.

The Rats

The rats used in Barn Hunt are domesticated pet rats and are fully contained in a 4” diameter PVC tube with lots and lots of ventilation holes. Rat safety is of primary concern and rats are swapped out and given breaks frequently. Rat safety rules include prevention of rolling, skittering and picking up tubes. Dogs NEVER come in direct contact with the rats and rats are never, ever outside the tubes at sanctioned events.

Most clubs have their own rats which are raised specifically for this event. My rats are bred for their outgoing nature and are clicker trained to the barn hunt tubes when they are four weeks old. Once they are eagerly entering the tubes by choice, they are slowly incorporated into the program. Fearful rats (although very rare in my experience) are not included in my program. Experienced “tube” rats will often compete to be the first one in the tube and mine “self-load” because they enjoy the adventure. There are many stories across the country of barn hunt rats that seem to revel in messing with the dogs!

In addition to the ever-important "RAT TUBE", there are two additional and identical PVC tubes out there on each course to add to the challenge. One tube contains nothing (called the "EMPTY TUBE") and the other contains a cup of bedding/litter which the rat slept on the night before (called the "LITTER TUBE"). As dogs graduate into the next levels they are challenged with an increasing number of tubes and a change in the ratio of empty to litter to rat tubes.

Judging is based on the handler calling the rat tube(s) to the judge based on observing their dog's behavior. As long as the handler can read the dog, the team can be successful. Once the rat is confirmed by the judge, the tube can be left in play or removed - it's the handlers call. If the call was incorrect, the run ends as a NQ. Other NQ's include overtime, touching bales/tubes or dogs, elimination in the ring, and inability to get a climb or a tunnel.

What is exciting about barn hunt is that most dogs can be very successful and enter a trial with little to no practice! As the team becomes more experienced, the courses get more challenging and strategy can come into play. People love this sport because it is a finely balances game of instinct, teamwork, strategy and luck ... the elements of any good game!

The Levels

Most dogs generally start at the INSTINCT level- which is the ONLY specified BH course layout. The "Instinct Fork", as it is sometimes called, is laid out with the three tube types (empty, litter, rat) sitting out in the open. Teams leave a start box and head to the tubes. If they call the correct rat tube within one minute, they get a RATI title! Instinct is NOT a prerequisite for Novice, so you can enter Instinct AND Novice at any trial. Once you finish the RATN title, you can't go back to Instinct.

The first "titling" level is the NOVICE level and is a course developed by the judge - just like an agility course. Teams need to identify the correct rat tube of the three (1 litter, 1 empty and 1 rat) as in Instinct ... except NOW the three tubes are hidden amongst up to 30 bales of straw. In addition to the handler calling ONLY the rat tube, the dog must complete a tunnel and climb on the bales in 2 minutes. Three passes at Novice earns the RATN title.

It is at the Novice level that the courses can get really fun. A judge's personality and creativity come out as they build memorable courses that can be a challenge! As a class is being run at a hunt...the course (straw layout) stays the same but the hides change. Each of the tubes move around between what are called "blinds".

A blind is a group of five dog/handler teams together in an area called a "blind". This blinding area prevents handlers from knowing where the tubes are hidden on the course. The blind is sometimes a pop up tent with sides or a room off to the side. The most important thing about a blind is that the dog and handler cannot see the hide locations. The same tube locations will be used for all dogs in that blind group. Once the blind is assembled and all five teams are in the blind area, the judge will set his/her tube locations. Each team will run, one at a time, until everyone has completed their run. Once everyone has run out, a new blind is assembled and new tube hiding spots are planted.

Barn Hunt does a fantastic job of understanding that dogs may not get along with other dogs, so no dog can be within 20 feet of the ring of a competing dog. Even in the blinds, you are allowed to have treats to keep your dog calm before they go to the ring. Toys and treats must be cleared out prior to competing because no toys or treats are allowed in the ring, but they are allowed prior.

Levels such as OPEN (two rats) and SENIOR (four rats) have multiple numbers of all the different tube types. The quantity of bales on course gets bigger, the courses gets taller and the tunnels get deeper!

The highest level is MASTERS and five passes earns the RATM. Continued passes in masters beyond the RATM can earn the coveted Barn Hunt Championship or RATCH.

The difficulty and level of precision needed makes getting a RATCH a great honor. AKC also has partnered with BHA to allow for Barn Hunt titles to be reflected on AKC registrations, so you may be seeing a RAT title on the pedigree dogs in AKC events!

Herding Breeds

While one may think that Barn Hunt was custom designed for terriers, many breeds from herding excel at the event. Herding dogs hit the sport by storm and are quickly moving up the ranks. At the time of this writing, the highest title in Barn Hunt is a RATCH 13 (that's 145 PASSES at Master) and is owned by a German Shepherd Dog!

Herding dogs took top honors at the 2015 Barn Hunt National, hosted by Purina Farms in St Louis. Four of the medals - one gold, one silver and two bronze (one of which was a two herding dog tie) - were earned by herding breed dogs. Barn Hunt and herding breeds are a great combination!

Questions about getting into Barn Hunt? Go to barnhunt.com for rules and event information.

Want to see what it looks like? Search YouTube for Barn Hunt videos ... plenty of examples are out there OR find an event close to you!

In my next article, I will share some experiences and strategy with you as well as some insights into starting and competing with a herding dog in barn hunt. Until then, happy hunting!

Article By:

Eva Raczka

Central Bark

Eva Raczka has been involved in dog sports since 8 years of age. She has trained and titled dogs in Obedience, Rally, Agility, Herding, Retriever Hunt Tests and more and utilizes her diverse training in teaching barn hunt and developing drills to proof and develop teams. Barn Hunt is her passion and she has introduced over 500 dogs and their owners to Barn Hunt through seminars, classes, lessons and more. Eva has won high scoring awards at every class level of Barn Hunt as well as being an A level Barn Hunt Judge. Eva and her Belgian Tervuren "Pi" (in addition to being the first RATCH X Terv) were Gold Medalists in Versatility and Bronze Medalists in Games at the 2015 BHA National earning the coveted Grand National Champion status. Eva is available for questions, club/event consultation and judging via info@central-bark.biz.

AKC News



A Hero's Goodbye For 9/11 Search Dog Bretagne

By: Randa Kriss



The world has lost a great K-9 hero. Bretagne, the last known 9/11 search and rescue dog, passed away on Monday. Bretagne, a 16-year-old Golden Retriever, was one of 300 or more dogs to search through the rubble for survivors after the attack on the World Trade Center.

Bretagne was two-years-old when she worked with her handler Denise Corliss and Texas Task Force 1 searching for 10 days after the 9/11 attacks. During her career she also worked with search teams after Hurricane Katrina, Hurricane Rita, and other disasters, according to TODAY.

Bretagne, who celebrated her 16th birthday in New York City last year, retired from active duty at age 9, but continued to serve her community, working as a reading assistance dog at an elementary school near her home in Texas. Read more about Bretagne's incredible life here. <http://www.akcchf.org/canine-health/Senior-geriatric-dog-health/maximize-the-golden-years.html>

On Monday, Corliss brought Bretagne to Fairfield Animal Hospital, making the difficult decision to put her down after the dog had stopped eating and experienced kidney failure. Bretagne was met at the hospital by representatives from Texas Task Force 1 and the Cy-Fair Volunteer Fire Department, as well as other agencies, who stood at attention and saluted the K-9 hero as she entered the hospital.

Again, they saluted Bretagne as she exited the hospital draped with an American flag, and accompanied her in a formal procession to Texas A&M University.

"This was a very small way for us to pay tribute to a dog who truly has been a hero," Cy-Fair Volunteer Fire Department Captain David Padovan told TODAY.

Without a doubt, Bretagne was an incredible k-9 hero and will be missed by all. See the touching video from the Houston Chronicle of her hero's goodbye here: http://www.akc.org/news/a-heros-goodbye-for-9-11-search-dog-bretagne/?utm_source=akcommweekly&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=20160610&mkt_tok=eyJpIjoiWV1FNVptTTBPRGMzTURVeClslnQiOijwYnAxY1BVVmJRcUtFmhvSkdBZXZTUDFKVmMwaVI4SEINMIRYOXpueHRUVkl3RIA3eXIZOCtvMGZWV1RxDXRoU0hGK1VJNW1nTTNRaFJoZkVhWGk5VVdubGduTHJJME9mQWpvRzJHeWF4ST0ifQ%3D%3D

A long-term surveillance study of the search-and-rescue dogs deployed after the attacks on September 11, 2001, funded by the AKC Canine Health Foundation, has been taking place at the Penn Vet Working Dog Center. Read more about the study here.: <http://www.akcchf.org/research/impact-stories/september-11-search-and-rescue-dogs-study.html>

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.

