



Waggin' Tales

Fox Valley Dog Training Club

Volume XV

Issue 4

April 2006

In this Issue

- Spring Agility Trial ... pages 1,2,4
- New Members ... page 3
- Membership Meeting minutes...page 3
- Brags & Bravos ... page 4
- DOT report...page 4
- President's comments... page 5
- Member Profile... page 6
- April Board Minutes... page 7
- Annual Banquet photos ... page 8
- Recipe Corner ... page 9
- Canine dental health...page 10
- Calendar...page 12
- Legislative news ... page 11
- Training Tip...page 11
- Calendar ... page 12

A well-trained dog is a happy dog!

Spring Agility Trial judged a hit

Fantastic!

That was the word mentioned over and over again to describe our first indoor agility trials. Fantastic location! Fantastic rings! Fantastic volunteers! I personally would like to thank my trial committee which included Cathy Fleury, Cheryl Lewis, Marian Lazzara, Loretta Lazzara, Shirley Short, Vera Nyberg and Ken Wiehe. To all those club members and non-members who volunteered to work with us, you have my sincere appreciation. All of us pulled together and gave our all to make these trials successful. The club received some outstanding press with reporters and photographers from the Beacon News, Chronicle, Daily Herald and Courier, attending our trials. I spent considerable time with them and thankfully was not misquoted.

I look forward to your continued support at our September outdoor agility trials.

With gratitude,
Helen Castellano
Agility Trial Chairperson

Dear Mr. Lewis,

Please convey my thanks to the members of Fox Valley Dog Training Club for inviting me to judge your agility trial. It was such a pleasure to work with such an outstanding group of folks, Helen Castellano, the Trial Chair, the Trial Committee, and all the folks that volunteered making it one of the best organized and managed trials I have ever judged. Please share the note I wrote to the judges list with your members and tell them they are the yardsticks I will measure all others by. They were simply outstanding.

(signed) Cordially,
Jana Brady, AKC Judge

**Memo from Jana Brady to AKC judges' list:
Subject: Good Trial to Judge For**

With all the things about poorly run trials that I hear about and have experienced, I just wanted to brag about a trial I just judged for. Last weekend, Suzi Bluford and I judged for Fox Valley DTC, at St. Charles, IL. I don't want to speak for Suzi but I thought it was very, very good. The host club was just wonderful, took

*Continued on page 4. See additional
Agility Trial photos on page 2.*



Cathy Fleury directs Ingrid Hamburger's Giant Schnauzer, "Pally," through one of the two indoor courses at FVDTC's Spring Agility Trial.

Furry, Flying & Having Fun!



Welcome New Members:

Burt & Gwen Brown
1910 Rita Ave.
St. Charles, IL 60174
630-377-5960

Labrador Retriever &
Leonberger
Completed Beginners Class



Dottie Pokorny
1210 W. Downer Pl.
Aurora, IL 60506
630-892-6756
Yorkie Poodle mix
Completed Beginners
Class



Sherri Esposito
7N747 Phar Lap Dr.
St. Charles, IL 60175
630-513-1141

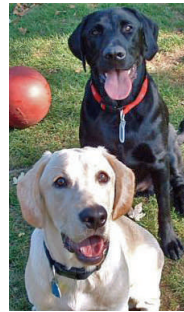


Schnauzer mix,
Husky mixes
Guest Trained

Mike & Laura Garza
1620 Coolidge Ave.
Aurora, IL 60505
630-499-1973
mrsqp88@aol.com



Pit Bull Terrier
Guest Trained



Rick & Jill Ramsey
8N680 Wildwood Drive
Elgin, IL 60123
847-742-7482
jramsey45@aol.com
Labrador Retrievers
Guest Trained

Maria Kolano & Thomas Matukas
509 Indiana St.
St. Charles, IL 60174
630-513-7312
martom@inil.com



Mixed Breed
Completed Beginners
Class

Julie Scroggin
39W455 Abbey Glen Ct
St. Charles, IL 60175
630-587-3753
wascroggin@aol.com
Labrador Retriever
Completed Beginners Class



Ron & Denise Mroz
0S834 Spring Green Way
Batavia, IL 60510
630-406-0574
denise.mroz@att.net



Australian Shepherd
Completed Beginners
Class

Margaret & Tom Trogdon
7N771 Phar Lap Dr.
St. Charles, IL 60175
630-443-2866
mtrog@dls.net
Golden Retrievers
Completed Beginners
Class



Robin Nelson
907 N. Third Ave.
St. Charles, IL 60174
630-584-8960
rvnls@comcast.net

Schnottie
Completed Beginners
Class



Membership reinstatements:

Mary Russell
1505 Nautilus Ln.
Hanover Park, IL
60133
630-289-0105
dogs4funx3@comcast.net

German
Shepherds



Changes start to ease strain of hectic training nights

Sandi Stephenson, Director of Training

Training nights remain busy and hectic, while our wonderful instructors continue to handle it all with good humor and great skill. I thank you all.

Classes seem to be ending in a timely fashion, and this has helped tremendously with the transition of classes as one ends and another begins in the same ring.

Using nametags to designate non-members who have paid for a class seems to be working well. We just need to be sure to have members working at the table to sign in people.

In order to encourage the recruitment of table workers, they will now be entitled to the same perks as instructors. Some of these include work credits and "first dibs" on run-throughs on busy nights. Please consider helping out at the table. The most crucial time slots are 6:45 through 8:15. Even if you can only contribute a half hour there once or twice a month you will be making a huge contribution to your club.

Loretta and I continue to "brainstorm" ways to make training better and fair to all. Your ideas and solutions are always welcome and appreciated. Members, we appreciate your patience on our lack of a free ring between 7-8 p.m. There are classes and/or run-through rings at this time available at every level. Before 7 and after 8 you should be able to access a shared ring.

Lastly, a reminder that Utility rings have a 10 minute (TEN MINUTES!) time limitation, especially on the busier nights. Mary Bradley's Utility ring is for Beginner utility people, and Marion Lazarra will do run-throughs for those that are experienced or have a U.D. title on their dogs. Thank you for your cooperation.

We must also thank Terri Byerly for her wonderful "reminder" signs, which will be set up in front of rings.

Go train your dogs. Don't forget they need hugs too.

Match Report: Judges

Sandi Stephenson, Match Judge Chair

Thank you to all who have judged and/or are signed up to judge future matches.

I am looking for a better location for the match judge and steward sign-up board to make it a little easier to find. Do hurry and sign up to be sure you get the class you most want to judge!

Please remember that judges should be in their rings at least five minutes early to ensure a prompt starting time. We must be considerate of those who have paid to show at our match, and also considerate of our stewards, who are generously donating their time.

Agility Trial continued from page 1

care of us well and the best part...the worker-volunteers were on the ball, hospitality was incredible and they had a great course-building crew.



All in all, the trial moved along very well, no delays looking for course builders, ring crew, etc. If you get a chance to judge for this club, take it. They will take care of you and treat you well. Jana Brady

AKC Judge Suzi Bluford watches Tracy McMahon's Rumba run the course.

Braggs & Bravos

- Kristine Andresen's Sonnenschein Dazzlin Krista, AM/Can CD, RN, TDI, CGC, received her Rally Novice title on March 24, 2006 and got her first Advanced Rally leg on March 25, 2006. We are so proud of how well she is doing and how much she seems to be enjoying the training and showing.
- Kent Hildebrand's Lab, Izzy, earned her TD on April 16th at Cardunal's tracking test.
- *Many thanks* to Ingrid Hamburger for so capably demonstrating Open and Utility with her Giant Schnauzer Heike to the DeKalb County 4-Hers at the Dog Project Day on March 25th. Also to my son and FVDTC member, Edward Malnar, and his Belgian Sheepdog, Payton, for their Novice Obedience and Showmanship demonstrations. **Cindee Ehrhart, Demonstrations Chair.**

Parking Redux

Dave Lewis, President

Last April, and again last August, the board asked all members and their guests to park away from the

building on training nights because of the "No Parking" signs on the building. Since that time we have had very few people parking next to the building and I appreciate your cooperation.

We recently discovered that the fire lane next to the building extends 35 feet from the building, almost to the light posts on the east side of the parking lot. In light of this new information, we are once again asking you to adjust your parking habits and park in the gravel lot, to the west of the light posts. Parking between the light posts and the building is a parking violation and cars could be ticketed, and the Fairgrounds could be issued a citation and required to appear in court. A previous tenant of the fairgrounds repeatedly violated the parking rules and was subsequently banned from the fairgrounds.

So, for the safety of our members, guests and dogs, and continued good will from our hosts, please park in the gravel lot, to the west of the light posts. Thank you for your cooperation.



Planning for Fall Obedience Trial begins

Yes, we have just started to see flowers emerge and grass green up, but **Peggy Sue Seehafer, Mary Bradley, Helen Castellano and Cheryl Lewis** want you to start thinking about the FVDTC Fall Obedience Trial. They form the committee that would like you to consider sponsoring a class or two for the Obedience Trial.

If you are interested, Peggy Sue says to call her at 630-584-1595 or email her at ps@k9prints.com. Or, you can also jot your name down and snail mail, call, email or even carrier pigeon your information to any one of the committee members. There will also be a sign up sheet on training nights. Please be sure to include a description if you wish to sponsor a specific breed item. The information will be published—so please contact the committee as soon as possible.

CERF Eye Clinic slated for May 11

Veterinarian Dr. Gerding will hold a CERF Eye clinic with Fox Valley Dog Training Club on Thursday, May 11th, at the Kane County Fairgrounds training building. The cost is \$28.00 per dog. Please call Sue MacPherson at 630-584-1002 to schedule an appointment.

From the Editor's End of the Couch

Anne Stuessy, Editor

With this issue, I'm really pleased to introduce a new feature to the newsletter—member profiles. I hope that these periodic articles will help all of us come to better know some of our fellow Club members, though we begin with a woman already well known to many—Helen Castellano.

As the story shows, Helen's visibility in the Club has less to do with her red hair than it does her boundless energy and the many hours she volunteers to FVDTC. We'll be focusing our Member Profiles on other volunteers in coming months. Why on volunteers?

It's easy for the rest of us to forget, when the Club runs relatively smoothly around us, that this is an organization dependent wholly on the dedication of volunteers. As you read the articles in Waggin' Tales, remember that behind every story you'll find volunteers. They're setting up and taking down for training nights and trials, organizing health clinics, raising funds, keeping our books and keeping tabs of our membership base. The trainers and assistant trainers who coach us week in and week out are all volunteers. Volunteers plan our parties and community events. They take our pictures, handcraft raffle prizes and order our trophies. In short, they lead, drive and fuel our Club.

Our first profile was wonderfully written by another volunteer—Molly Stadler. I regretted having to snip a few words to fit it on the page. Molly—you have my thanks and I hope you'll write future profiles too!

I'd like to add my

Continued on page 9



In order to really enjoy a dog, one doesn't merely try to train him to be semi-human. The point of it is to open oneself to the possibility of becoming partly a dog.

- Edward Hoagland

Member Profile

Helen Castellano: An energetic force behind FVDTC Agility

By Molly Stadler

She may not be leaping hurdles or shooting through tunnels, but Helen Castellano, Agility Trial Chair, is as high-energy as any agility champion.

At a Club meeting in 2000, Helen made the motion for the Club to host an AKC Agility Trial. Member response was very positive, particularly since Helen also offered to organize the event. The indoor trial held earlier this month at the Sportsplex in St. Charles was the club's seventh event.

"I took it on and I've had it ever since. It's something I really enjoy. I've learned a lot but I also really enjoy that aspect of organizing. It's like my baby," Helen explains. She arranges for the site, the judges, a host of volunteers and all the equipment. Then after months of work, she says she can sit back and watch it run.

This is the first year the Club will sponsor two Agility Trials in one year, and April's was the first indoor Trial the Club has offered.

In her 20 years with dogs, Helen has bred and raised Champion English Springer Spaniels, and taken them to obedience and agility titles. She is now raising her second puppy for Leader Dogs for the Blind and is working with her first Australian Shepherd. Helen also has a human family (husband Tom and daughter Samantha) and a full-time job at Lucent Technology

Helen's first puppy came from a pet store and that was a bad experience. Helen thought, "I need to do a better job at this," and started visiting dog shows and doing research. Her sister-in-

law suggested English Springer Spaniels, and Helen liked what she saw in their feathers and flowing coats.



Helen Castellano has had three-year-old "Jazz" Wildhaven Jenasee Gotta Play, in agility training since she was a puppy.

As luck would have it, she sat next to a Springer breeder from Michigan. Helen's first Springer, Jester, would later come from that same breeder.

"I had nobody in the area to show me how to do the grooming because the breeder was in Michigan and I was here. I really had no clue what the heck I was doing." But after trial and, she admits, a few errors, she learned. A professional handler took him to his conformation championship.

It was the conformation classes that first brought her to Fox Valley Dog Training Club, nearly 20 years ago.

Eventually Jester became quite the dominant dog and Helen enrolled in obedience classes. Her first instructors were Ronnie Bizer and Donna Weilert. Ronnie became Helen's mentor for obedience.

Helen spent four or five years traveling to breed shows and obedience shows all over the country. It was at one of those shows that Helen saw her first agility competition.

What struck her immediately was that the dogs "were having a blast. The Springer ears were flying and the feathers were going, and I came back home and said—how do I do this?"

Luckily, Ronnie Bizer was starting an agility class and Cathy Fleury was teaching. That was 11 years ago and agility is still a rewarding sport for Helen and her dogs.

In addition to her training, Helen has volunteered in a number of positions for the club. For three years, she and Will Short taught an Advanced Beginners' Class. She assisted with and then was responsible for trophies for Obedience Trials, and she also used to run Correction Clinics. She has also volunteered at the front table on training nights.

Now her focus is on the agility trial and training her Aussie in agility. Springers and Aussies handle agility very differently, she said, and switching breeds has helped her grow as a handler.

But if you ask her what she values most about the Fox Valley Dog Training Club, she doesn't hesitate.

"It's the people. I have met so many wonderful people. You never know who is going to be around the next ring gate, who's going to be standing there."

Whoever it is, it's a good bet Helen will step out to greet them.

Board Meeting Highlights April 6, 2006

Meeting brought to order at 7:47 p.m.

Carolyn Pearson, Secretary. The February meeting minutes were approved as published.

Ed Herdes, First Vice-President, reported that he is buying paint to repaint the gates, stanchions and other equipment.

Terri Byerly, Second Vice-President, reported that there are confirmed speakers for the May 3rd and September 6th meetings.

Terri said to let her know if anyone has something to announce or needs volunteers, and she'll update the bulletin board. After some discussion, it was decided that the bulletin board should be hung just to the east of the door at eye level. Terri will continue to provide weekly reminders for instructors to announce during class. She still needs volunteers to sit at the information table on training nights, especially between 6:30 and 8:15 p.m.

Terri also reported that she has scheduled a Pet First-Aid Class for club members and students. The class will be held at the Fox River Red Cross Chapter Office on Saturday, May 20th from 8:00 a.m. until approximately noon. The cost is \$40.00 and must be prepaid with registration. Checks should be made out to American Red Cross. Terri would like to get a final count of attendees to the Red Cross shortly.

Terri stated that a 'Reading with Rover' event is scheduled at the North Aurora library at 2:00 p.m. on Saturday.

Dale Swanson, Treasurer, stated that he and Amy Ford would be meeting on April 8th to do the taxes.

Sandi Stephenson, Director of Training, reported that training is busy and that most classes are full. Sandi stated that the following is the priority for ring usage:

- Instructors
- Information Table Volunteers
- Club Members
- Guest Trainers

Current ring usage was also discussed.

Sandi reported that **Loretta Lazzara** would like to see more students progress into more advanced classes. Helen suggested that Loretta might wish to speak to the Beginner and Advanced Beginner students to encourage them to continue to more advanced training. Offering Rally classes was also addressed, however ring space is only available at 9:00 p.m.

Ronnie Bizer, Obedience Trial Chairperson, was unable to attend, but she sent the following report: The Obedience Trial Committee will meet in May. **Francene Andresen** has volunteered to be the Raffle Chair for 2006. **Taffy Wille, Obedience Trial Secretary,** reported that the Judge's Committee was working on the judges for the 2007 Obedience Trial.

Nadine Conner, Public Education Coordinator, reported that FVDTC was represented at the Charlestowne Mall Carson Pirie Scott on Sunday, March 26, for a "How to Act / Meet New Dogs and Other Ani-

mals" event at Kids' Day. Nadine reported that we will participate at the Rover Rescue Dog Show, May 6th, at Aurora Turners Club. Anyone wishing to volunteer should contact Nadine at education@fvdtc.org or at 630- 772-1396.

Helen Castellano (Agility Trial Chairperson) reported that everyone had a fantastic time at the first Spring Agility Trial. All the committee chairs did a wonderful job and having hats to identify the workers was loved by all. The Courier News, Kane County Chronicle, Beacon News and Daily Herald sent reporters to cover the event. The Judges' Dinner went well. Helen said she will discuss the final bill with the SportsPlex soon.

Helen also announced that AKC is adding a new agility event called FAST.

The Fall Agility Trial is scheduled for September 16th and 17th at the Kane County Fairgrounds.

Old Business

Fairground Parking: **Dave Lewis** stated that the motion to require parking in the gravel part of the lot, per St. Charles law, passed during the on-line voting, but there is still the open issue of consequences for those who park illegally. He asked for suggestions and discussion followed. It was suggested that a warning be placed on the windshield. Ed Herdes said that when the police are called regarding illegal parking, the fairgrounds are ticketed not the individual cars.

Dale suggested that we create a diagram stating where to park. Taffy said her school did a diagram for parking and it helped alleviate their problems. Sandy will put a thank you in the Waggin' Tales.

Trial Budgets: Dave asked for a status on receiving budgets from the Trial Chairs. The Tracking and Obedience Trial budgets are still due. **Ingrid Hamburger** said she misunderstood the discussion at the February Board Meeting, and will provide the Tracking Trial budget at the next meeting. Carolyn will contact Ronnie Bizer regarding the Obedience Trial budget.

Modification of Membership Fee Structure: During the February Board meeting, this topic was brought up as a way of redefining

Continued on page 10

Fox Valley Dog Club serves up recognition, awards & fun at the Annual Dinner



Are you looking for a real dog of a sweetheart?

According to an **AKC survey** of dog owners, an overwhelming majority of women – nearly 90% – find at least one quality in their dog that they'd like to see in their significant other, while 34% percent of the women surveyed agreed with the statement, "If my dog was a man, he'd be my boyfriend!"

When the question was posed to men, 33% said the number one canine quality they wished their women had was "always being in a good mood." Fewer men than women (23%) agreed with the statement "If my dog was a woman she'd be my girlfriend."

Additional canine qualities **women look for in men:**

- Perennial good mood (25%)
- Always willing to spend time with you (21%)
- Always up for cuddling on the couch (20%)
- Motivates you to exercise (12%)
- Eagerness to eat your cooking (11%)

Additional canine qualities **men look for in women:**

- Just as happy to hang at home as go out on the town (16%)
- Always greeting me enthusiastically when I get home (15%)
- Doesn't get mad when I want to watch sports (15%)
- Being up for anything I want to do (11%)

Recipe Corner

Crunchy Wheat Treats

- 2 1/2C all purpose flour
- 2C whole wheat flour
- 1C rolled oats
- 1/2C wheat germ (I use honey nut wheat germ)
- 1/2C corn meal
- 14 1/2oz can beef or chicken broth (or make your own)
- 1/2C non-fat dry milk
- 1 tsp salt
- 1 pkg dry yeast
- 1/4C warm water

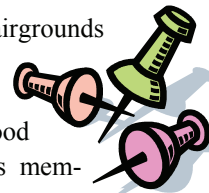


Dissolve yeast in 1/4C warm water and let proof. Warm the broth. In large bowl, mix 2 flours, oats, wheat germ, corn meal, dry milk and salt. Stir in broth and yeast mixture. Knead by hand for at least 3 minutes. (Don't skimp on the kneading time!) Roll into a 1/2" thick sheet and cut with cookie cutter, or roll into a log shape and slice to desired size. Mix the egg and milk and brush on before baking. Bake at 300° for about 40 minutes (a little longer if they're big). Turn off oven and leave in overnight. (The longer you leave them in the

Submitted by Sandy Davis

Club offers wealth of training resources

Tucked inside the Fairgrounds Training Building is the Fox Valley Dog Training Club's Library and it offers a good variety of training materials members can check out. Just ask anyone at the front desk for the key. And please do remember to return materials in a timely manner.



Time to start planning

The fourth annual AKC Responsible Dog Ownership Day will be held on Saturday, September 16th this year. The goal of the initiative is to educate first-time dog owners about the responsibilities of dog ownership and help current owners enhance their relationships with their pets. If you would like to help Fox Valley's efforts to promote this day, please leave your name and contact information at the training desk.

Editor continued

congratulations to Helen and the entire team that worked so hard to put together and pull off the Spring Agility Trial. It was such fun to watch that, on the spot, I committed to signing Scout up for Cathy Fleury's beginner agility class. We've had two lessons now and it is as much fun as it looks. I can hardly wait for the day when we can run in our first Fox Valley Agility Trial. I also want to really thank Peggy Sue Seehafer for the terrific photos she contributed to the Agility Trial story.

Thank you to the contributors to this month's Waggin' Tales: Helen Castellano, Sandy Davis, Ingrid Hamburger, Carolyn Pearson, Sue MacPherson, Peggy Sue Seehafer, Molly Stadler and Sandi Stephenson

Waggin' Tales is published monthly for members of Fox Valley Dog Training Club. Please send any comments, suggestions and articles for consideration to:

Anne Stuessy
Waggin' Tales editor
waggintales@fvdtc.org or annestuessy@sbcglobal.net

©2006. No part of this publication may be reprinted without permission.



Health News Keep those canines clean

Oral disease is the most frequently diagnosed health problem for pets and, according to the **American Veterinary Dental Society (AVDS)**, an astounding 80 percent of dogs and 70 percent of cats show signs of oral disease by age three. And it's a disease that can impact far more than the teeth.

If left untreated, plaque buildup may lead to periodontitis. Unlike the inflamed gums of gingivitis, which can be treated and reversed with thorough plaque removal and continued plaque control, periodontitis can only be contained to prevent progression. The disease causes red, swollen and tender gums, receding gums, bleeding, pain and bad breath. If left untreated, periodontitis can lead to tooth loss. The infection caused by periodontal disease may also enter the bloodstream, potentially infecting the heart, liver and kidneys.

Oral disease begins with a buildup of bacteria in the dog's mouth. Bacteria, combined with saliva and food debris between the tooth and gum, can cause plaque formulations that accumulate on the tooth. As bacteria grow in the plaque and as calcium salts are deposited, plaque turns to tartar.

If tartar is not removed, pockets of infection may appear along the gum line and further separate the teeth from the gum, which allows still more food and bacteria to accumulate. It's this plaque and tartar buildup that can cause periodontal disease.

Good oral care begins at home

Like humans, dogs need daily brushing to prevent oral disease. Introduce a brushing program to pets gradually and, preferably, when they are young. Avoid over-restraining your pet and keep brushing sessions short. Praise and reassure your pet throughout the process.

At first, dip a finger into beef bouillon. Rub the soaked finger gently over the pet's mouth and teeth. Gradually introduce gauze over the finger and gently scrub the teeth in a circular motion. Finally, introduce a sensitive or ultra-soft brush designed for people or a soft toothbrush designed for pets. Toothbrushes and toothpastes designed specifically for pets are available at pet stores and through many veterinary offices. Don't use toothpaste designed for people because it could upset the animal's stomach.

Warning Signs of Oral Disease

- **Bad breath**
- **A change in eating or chewing habits**
- **Pawing at the face or mouth**
- **Depression**

If any of these signs are present, see your vet for a dental exam

Board Minutes, continued from page 7

membership fees and better tying it to the relationship of actively working club members. It was agreed that this topic is intertwined with the possibility of offering more training time and space. As expected, many different ideas were discussed. Taffy suggested we form a committee of members and board members to address the issue. It was agreed that the Board would have to provide some type of basic framework to the committee. It was suggested that we also seek feedback from club members by putting a brief survey in the Waggin' Tales. Feedback from club members who belong to other dog clubs would be especially helpful.

Board Member Open Communication:

Taffy asked that all club members be notified that when feedback is sought by any Board member for club related issues, everyone should be aware that information will be shared among the entire Board, regardless of which Board member initially received the information. This includes snail mail and e-mail messages sent to Board members' personal e-mail addresses. Open communication facilitates better communication between Club members and the Board.

New Business

Sandi asked about the timeliness of Correction Clinic judging. She's received complaints about judges who do not start judging at the 7 p.m. start time. It was agreed that if this is a consistent problem, then that individual should be warned that their behavior is inappropriate and must be corrected. Failure to start on time after the warning will result in the cessation of his or her judging responsibilities. Ingrid stated that volunteering to steward offers individuals a little more flexibility for timeliness.

Helen Castellano made a motion to donate a certificate good for one Beginners' class, with an expiration date of 12/31/2006, to the Rover Rescue Pet Dog Show. Terri Byerly seconded the motion. The motion was approved by all, without any opposition or abstentions.

A motion was made, seconded and approved to adjourn the meeting at 10:25 p.m.



AKC April Board Meeting Highlights

The following are a few of the decisions made at the April meeting of the American Kennel Club (AKC) Board of Directors meeting.

- The Tibetan Mastiff becomes eligible for AKC registration September 1, 2006 and eligible to compete in the Working Group on and after January 1, 2007
- The Norwegian Buhund and Pyrenean Shepherd will be eligible to compete in the Misc. Class on and after January 1, 2007.
- Effective September 1, 2006, the Agility Regulations have been amended, reducing the height of the A-Frame in the 26 inch class to 5' 7" from the present 6' 3".

Command: "Go Lie Down" Level: Any

This command doesn't apply to competitive obedience, but it's a blessing in the household, especially during dinner.

Begin by using his favorite rug (or a specific towel or blanket) for this command. Lay it on the floor and, with your dog on a leash, motion toward the rug and tell him to "go lie down." Then run quickly with your dog to the rug and pat it for "Down." To release your dog say "Free" (or whatever) and encourage him to come to you and sit-in-front. End with lots of praise and a reward if you use one.

If your dog leaves the rug before you release him, pick up the leash and give a negative by tapping *away* from the rug, then praise back to the rug.


NEVER pull the dog toward the rug or correct him while he's on it—it must be a positive place for the dog. If he needs to be corrected (e.g. for sitting up) guide him off the rug, correct him away from the rug, and then praise him back to the rug and back into his "go lie down." Gradually increase the amount of time your dog spends in his "go lie down" and then you can remove the rug if you like.





Training Tip


Legislative News





 The **City of Elgin** is investigating dangerous dog legislation, including possibly enacting breed-specific legislation. AKC sent a letter encouraging officials to pursue a non-discriminatory dangerous dog ordinance, and forwarded sample dangerous dog legislation to members of the city council.

 AKC has learned that **Hoffman Estates** has a breed-specific ordinance which declares "pit bulls," defined as American Pit Bull Terriers, Staffordshire Bull Terriers, American Staffordshire Terriers or any mixed breed dog with similar characteristics, to be vicious animals. The ordinance requires that "pit bulls" be confined indoors or in a locked pen, muzzled when off the owner's property, and that owners post signs stating that there is a vicious dog on the premises. AKC has sent a letter encouraging the city council to repeal this ordinance in favor of a dangerous dog ordinance that targets irresponsible owners.

 Rep. Berrios is sponsoring **HR1026**, a resolution to encourage municipalities not to enact breed-specific legislation, to pass laws that target irresponsible dog owners and to encourage programs that educate residents. The resolution has passed the House Committee on Local Government and will now go before the full House.

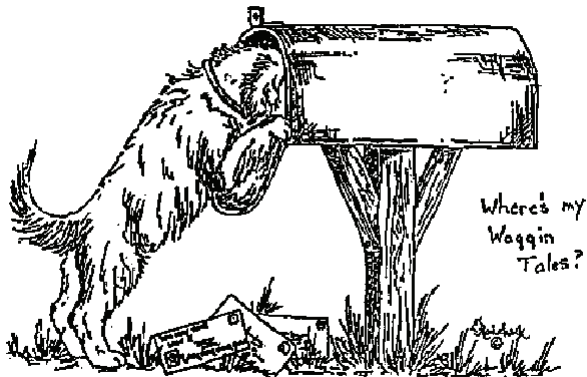
 Rep. Boland's **HJR101** establishes the Vicious and Dangerous Dog Task Force to study and make recommendations concerning how to best protect the public from dog attacks. The 17-member panel will include representatives from the veterinary community, animal control community, a not-for-profit humane society, the American Kennel Club and an animal behaviorist. The resolution has passed out of the House Committee on Agriculture and Conservation and will be voted on by the full House. AKC strongly supports this effort to identify strategies that effectively address dangerous dogs. **SJR80**, sponsored by Sen. Harmon, is the Senate companion bill.

 Rep. Chapa-LaVia's **H4711** passed both houses and now proceeds to the governor. The bill increases penalties relating to dog fighting from a Class C misdemeanor to a Class A misdemeanor. If a person who is under thirteen years of age is brought to a dog fight, the parent, guardian or adult who brought the child would be charged with a Class 4 felony for a first offense.

 Rep. Boland's **H4238** passed both houses and is headed to Governor Blagojevich. The bill has been amended to provide that owners of dogs who allow their animals to run loose and seriously injure or kill someone will be guilty of a Class 4 felony. Previously, **H4238** punished only owners of intact dogs who committed this crime. AKC, the Illinois Dog Clubs and Breeders Association, and concerned dog owners successfully argued that stronger penalties for dangerous dog violations should apply to all owners, not just those who own unaltered animals.

©American Kennel Club 2006.

A. Stuessy
 Waggin' Tales Editor
 2742 Andrews Avenue
 Batavia, IL 60510



2006 Calendar of Events

May

| | | |
|----|-----------|---------------------------------|
| 3 | Wednesday | Membership Meeting |
| 4 | Thursday | Regular Training |
| 7 | Sunday | Waggin' Tales Deadline |
| 8 | Monday | Crufts on Animal Planet |
| 11 | Thursday | Regular Training CERF Clinic |
| 18 | Thursday | Correction Clinic CGC |

June

| | | |
|----|----------|--|
| 1 | Thursday | Beginning Session 3 Puppy/ Beginner Classes |
| 8 | Thursday | Regular Training |
| 9 | Friday | Board Meeting |
| 11 | Sunday | Waggin' Tales Deadline |
| 15 | Thursday | Correction Clinic |
| 22 | Thursday | Regular Training |