



Waggin' Tales

Fox Valley Dog Training Club

Volume XV

Issue 5

May 2006

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Volunteers keep Club humming

Sandi Stephenson, Director of Training

Training continues to go well, and I am grateful to all members for their part in keeping it — and the Club — running smoothly. I see so many, in their own way, doing something to help out on Thursdays.

I particularly want to say “thank you” to Utility handlers who show their consideration for those waiting for rings, by keeping their run-thru times to 10 minutes.

I also want to thank Instructors for keeping their own dogs crated while teaching, so their full attention can be given to their students.

As always, our instructors deserve most of the credit for our many happy trainees. How long could Fox Valley survive without these people who willingly donate their time to help others learn to train dogs? It’s not an easy job, yet it’s one our instructors tend to do year in and year out.

I am sad to report that one of those tireless trainers, Rick Cox, has resigned as Open Class instructor, effective at the end of this session. He has done a wonderful job with this class and will be missed. Thank you Rick, for all of your hard work for the club over these past several years. You have certainly earned a break. But still, we hold hope that you will be back to teach in the future!

On a happier note, Marietta Huber has stepped in to take the Open Class, although she cannot be there on Tuesdays. Thanks, Marietta! And thank you too, Loretta, for agreeing to fill in on those days that Marietta can not teach. We are all also grateful to Cheryl Lewis, who assists in the Open Class whenever she can.

Speaking of Cheryl, here is a gal with four kids, (4!), and a full-time job outside the home. She is a student of karate and is busy with lots of other stuff, yet she still makes time to teach at

Continued on page 2

A well-trained dog is a happy dog!



Congratulations to the latest Canine Good Citizen and Therapy Dog International title recipients! (With regrets that I wasn't able to track down everyone's name by press time.)

DOT, continued from page 1

Fox Valley DTC! Pretty amazing, I don't know how she does it, but I'm sure glad she does! Thank you Cheryl!

If you are looking for a way to help the Club—we always need help at the front table. Even if you could commit to a half-hour it would help and be most appreciated.

It was great to see the always smiling Barb Micsh there greeting trainees last week. Thanks, Barb!

We also need assistants for the next session in the 7 p.m. Beginners Class.

Thanks to Bill Clarke for helping Sandy with Beginners last session. I know he already assists with 4-H and is trying to get his own dogs ready to show, so please, someone step up and volunteer for this class.

Thanks also to Club Treasurer Dale Swanson, who agreed to assist Terri again in the 8 p.m. Beginners Class. Have you noticed how many people wear several hats?

Look at Ed Herdes, our "whenever you need something" go-to guy. He is still doing a great job with the 9 p.m. Beginners Class, but I just know he would love an assistant too...

Nancy Pederson is an instructor and she also has a most difficult "behind the scenes" job as Club Registrar. Without someone to set up and co-ordinate students for our classes, we would not have our club for very long. Thanks, Nancy, and we all hope you are completely "heeled" and fully recovered from your foot surgery.

Give your dogs a big hug.

Date changes for Fall Correction Match

Jan Schomer, Match Chair

Our September Correction Match has been changed to **September 14th**, due to a change with the Fairgrounds. Updated entry forms will be in the box at training.

Deadline nears for AKC Awards for Canine Excellence (ACE) nominations

Do you know a special dog that deserves to be honored for a brave deed or lifetime of devotion? The American Kennel Club Awards for Canine Excellence (ACE) were established to do just that. Each year honorees are selected in five categories:

- Law Enforcement Dog
- Service Dog
- Search and Rescue Dog
- Therapy Dog
- Exemplary Companion Dog

AKC will announce a winner and honorable mentions for each of the five categories. The deadline to submit a nomination for the ACE awards is June 15, 2006. A dog can be nominated by anyone, even his or her owner.

Visit www.akc.org/news/ace/ to nominate a dog or read about last year's award recipients.



Braggs & Bravos

- Rick Cox reports that Willow finished her CDX at the Fond du Lac Kennel Club Trial, April 22-23. She took 3rd place on Saturday and 2nd place on Sunday. She earned her CDX with three qualifying scores for the three trials entered. "Now," he says, "we're on to work on a UKC open title!"

Therapy Dogs

are **NEEDED** for the

"Read With Rover" program

at the [Messenger Public Library of North Aurora](#)

Help children build their confidence through reading aloud to your dog.

For more information, please see or email Terri Byerly at terribyerly@aol.com

In a crisis, most pet owners would defy authorities and stay with their pet

Maybe it's just one more take-away from Katrina. A recent survey conducted by the American Kennel Club shows that of pet owners polled, 62% said that if they were forced to evacuate their homes to a location where they could not bring their pets, they would defy authorities and stay with their animals.

In addition,

- 97% would take their pets with them in case of an evacuation
- 97% keep up with vaccinations
- 79% permanently identify their pets through microchipping or tattoo
- 62% have a family evacuation plan in case a natural disaster hits
- 61% have a pet evacuation plan
- 23% were prompted to design an emergency plan for their pet after Hurricanes Katrina/Rita
- 91% of owners say they have a copy of their pet's vaccination records
- 79% have their AKC registration papers
- 93% have an extra leash
- 89% have extra dog food—some of the basics for a pet disaster kit

While survey respondents overwhelmingly consider their animals to be members of the family, there are some troubling indicators that many are not prepared to safely evacuate their pets if the need arises. Of those who do not have an evacuation plan for their pet, 22% say it is because they live in a geographic location that isn't a likely target for terrorism or is not susceptible to natural disasters or other disasters, while over half (52%) said they would like to have one but didn't know how to put one together.

While a majority of owners have vaccination records, extra food and water on hand for their pets, 76% do not have the items assembled in a portable pet disaster kit in the case of an immediate evacuation.

More than half (55%) of respondents do not have a list of hotels that accept pets outside their area's evacuation zone.

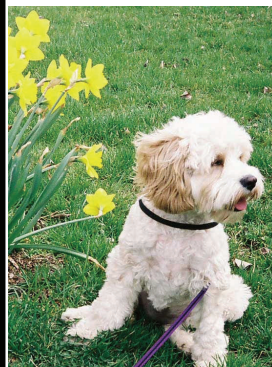
Pet Owners Level of Preparedness Varies by Region

The impact of hurricanes was apparent in the survey findings, as Southeast residents are the most prepared to safely evacuate their pets in case of an emergency, with nearly three quarters of those polled (74%) reporting that they have an evacuation plan for their pet and 29% reporting they have a pet disaster kit assembled.

Midwest Pet Owners the least prepared

In the Midwest, only 18% of pet owners surveyed claimed to have a pet disaster kit assembled in case of an evacuation, the lowest percentage in the nation. In fact, only 58% of Midwesterners polled claimed to have evacuation plans for themselves and their families. Have you gotten your plan and kit together yet? For ideas on what to include, check out the March 2006 Waggin' Tales at www.fvdtc.org.

Welcome New Members



Bev Galvani
231 Sedgewick Ci.
St. Charles, IL 60174
630-443-8605
bev1967@aol.com
Cockapoo
Guest Trained



Arlene & Leonardo Moody
1845 Prairie Avenue, Downers Grove, IL
60515
630-852-6129, lucinc@comcast.net
German Shepherds, Guest Trained



Carol Pace
235 Walter Court, Elgin, IL 60123
847-695-3590, jpace6235@wowway.com
Labrador Retrievers,
Completed Beginners Class

New email address:

Rick Cox— rickcox33@comcast.net

Order fall Obedience Trial trophies now

The Obedience Trial Trophy Committee is starting to compile a list of trophies for this year's trial (e.g. Novice Open, 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th Place; Top-Winning Border Collie, etc.). This compilation is essential in order to ensure that the trophies that need to be purchased are ordered and to ensure that we can publish the trophies in the Trial Invitation (Premium) and Program.

If you plan to ask the Trophy Committee to purchase a trophy for you, you must make that request by **June 1st**.

If you plan to donate your own prize, you must still let the Trophy Committee know the details (see below) no later than **June 30th** to ensure it is listed.

To submit information to the committee, please complete the form below and send it to:

Peggy Sue Seehafer
4N115 Trotter Lane
St. Charles, IL 60175

Fox Valley Dog Training Club Obedience Trial

I would like to contribute to the 2006 Obedience Trial Trophy Fund.

I would like to sponsor the following Trophy(ies):

Please check the appropriate response:

I will be purchasing/furnishing my own prize(s) for the Trophy(ies) I am sponsoring.

I would like to give a cash prize. (Please specify amount for each trophy you are sponsoring)

I would like to contribute to the general trophy fund – please apply where needed.

Total Amount I am contributing: \$ _____

Name and phone number: _____

Please attach a separate piece of paper if you are including a dedication or memorial in the premium list with your name.

From the Editor's End of the Couch

Anne Stuessy, Editor

This was a more challenging issue for me than usual, because two potential articles forced me to re-visit the role of Waggin' Tales and my own goal for the newsletter.

Of course, the primary role of any Club's newsletter is to communicate the activities of the Club to Club members. No hand wringing there. Well, except when they're around the necks of writers whose stories are late, but that's another story. Waggin' Tales conveys news of the Board and committees, Trials and Training schedules, health classes and membership and the like.

But the content and tone of any club's communications—its newsletter, website, meetings, press releases, and *particularly* the messages conveyed from trainer to class, from member to member, and from member to outsider — also define it.

It's no secret that 2005 was a rough year. You could read that in the Board minutes, in WT and hear it any time members gathered. But by the end of the year it was also pretty clear that most members had tired of the negativity and wanted to put it behind us.

When I took the editor post, my goal was to publish a newsletter focused on what we share—the joys, surprises, humiliations, triumphs, challenges and even heartaches of life with our dogs. So, when I received an article that rattled the bars of an old disagreement, my heart sank. I gave it a lot of thought, and in the end decided to not run it.

That doesn't mean Waggin' Tales won't address contentious issues, it must and it will. But there comes a time when an editor has to say, enough. Enough has been written on a topic for now, and leave members to make up their own minds.

Of course a few issues may be revisited time and again, if there really is new information or if it makes sense due to membership turnover. Then all sides must be presented and kicked about, and then again left to members to decide for themselves.

The second article to give me pause this month, and one on which I would expect some

Labradors retain hold on “most popular” breed

For the 16th consecutive year, the Labrador Retriever is the most popular purebred dog in America, according to AKC® registration figures.

The Golden Retriever held onto the number two spot with the Yorkshire Terrier making significant gains — beating the German Shepherd Dog and Beagle — to become the third most popular dog in the country.

In the Chicago area, however, it was the German Shepherd taking the number two spot and the Golden Retriever in third place.

Ten most popular dog breeds in the US

1. Retrievers (Labrador)
2. Retrievers (Golden)
3. Yorkshire Terriers
4. German Shepherds
5. Beagles
6. Dachshunds
7. Boxers
8. Poodles
9. Shih Tzu
10. Miniature Schnauzers

Ten most popular dog breeds in Chicago

1. Retrievers (Labrador)
2. German Shepherds
3. Retrievers (Golden)
4. Boxers
5. Pugs
6. Yorkshire Terriers
7. Rottweilers
8. Bulldogs
9. Shih Tzu
10. Poodles



Instructor Carolyn Pearson can't resist any puppy, but everyone knows her softest spot is "pure Gold."

Equine wormer warning: Ivermectin can be fatal to dogs

Thanks to Marie Jarosch for letting us reprint the following message which she sent to Terri Byerly, as it contains valuable safety information. It is edited slightly for length.

Terri,

I am from your Thursday night 8 p.m. beginner class. Nicki and I will not be at class tonight. I am hopeful that next week all will be back to normal and we will be back in class. We had a challenging day yesterday,

and I wanted to share it with all of you so that you can warn others and prevent a day like the one we had!

We have three horses at home. Our day started fairly normal. My husband, George, and I went out to feed the horses before work, and then came in to take Nicki outside. I was horrified as I watched her walk to the back door. She was unsteady on her feet and her back end was failing beneath her. She seemed alert, but when I picked her up, her legs shook like a Parkinson's patient. She was also panting heavily, her heart was racing and she was slobbering.

Fortunately our small animal Vet (Greg) is my husband's best friend and he seems unaffected by us calling him at all hours. As we discussed the potential causes, we focused on the fact that George had fertilized the night before and perhaps she was having a reaction.

He told us to call the Animal Poison Control Center hotline (888-426-4435) and open a case with them, and then call him back with the case number. Apparently they keep a database of all poisonous agents and treatment for animals, and for a \$50 fee they are extremely helpful. We called them and there was no answer on the 24 hour emergency number! Greg told us to force fluids in her and try to get her to eat, and keep calling the number.

No luck with Animal Poison Control, so the next approach we tried was to call the Fertilizer manufacturer. We left a message there and by 8 a.m. they called us back. They were willing to bet money that their product could not be the cause. Apparently they only use less than 1% herbicide in their product. They thought this was too insignificant to cause the issues we were seeing, so they encouraged us to think about other things that Nicki could have gotten into.

With that information, I continued to roll the previous night through my brain. I remembered that I had wormed the horses the night before. Worming can be messy as horses occasionally snort and spit out some of the wormer. Nicki is always with me in the barn, but I hadn't seen Nicki licking up anything. I could not believe that could be the reason, but it was the only thing different from our normal routine.

The Ivermectin (wormer) packaging warned

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FVDTC May Membership Meeting Highlights

Meeting brought to order at 7:42 p.m.

Members heard a presentation from Canine Companions for Independence (see box).

Carolyn Pearson, Secretary. The March Meeting minutes were approved as published.

Presentation of Sally Compton Outstanding Service to the Club Award. Dave Lewis presented the award to **Barb Misch** who was unable to attend the annual dinner. Dave read the three nominations submitted for Barb. In typical Barb style, she thanked everyone else who helped her in all her club related endeavors.

Terri Byerly, Second Vice-President, was not present, but sent the following report: There are still a couple spaces available for the Pet First Aid Class on Saturday May 20th. Please get your payment of \$40.00 (checks made payable to American Red Cross) to her at training this week to reserve your spot. Reservations are first come first serve.

She also reminded everyone who is uncomfortable presenting ideas or general thoughts about the club, thoughts about improvements, etc., in front of the membership-at-large to contact her, via e-mail, phone or at training. She will then present your ideas to the Board for discussion.

We are desperately in need of help at the front table on training nights. Without the table being manned, guests are not welcomed properly and we lose income. Half hour slots are reasonable and appreciated and volunteers do receive work credit. Please remember that for the club to continue to exist, we all have to work together to keep it afloat. Simply paying dues in any club is never truly enough. There is a sign-up sheet at the table, please help fill empty slots.

Dale Swanson, Treasurer, reported that the club has money.

Sandi Stephenson, Director of Training, stated that we need primary and assistant instructors. Sandi also stated that if anyone is interested in substituting to please contact her and she will start a list of volunteers. Sandi reminded everyone that instructors get the following benefits:

Carol Gillum and Jean, puppy raisers from **Canine Companions for Independence (CCI)**, gave a very interesting presentation about their organization at the May Membership Meeting. CCI is a non-profit organization, founded in 1975, that enhances the lives of people with disabilities by providing highly trained assistance dogs and ongoing support to ensure quality partnerships. CCI is funded through private contributions.

CCI dogs are usually purebred Labrador or Golden Retrievers and also Labrador/Golden Retriever mixes that are either bred by the organization or donated by breeders.

“Puppy raisers” typically foster the puppies from the time they are eight weeks old until they are twelve to fourteen months, and in that time they teach 26 commands. Approximately 40% of the puppies successfully complete this portion of the process, after which there is a six-month evaluation in the CCI training facility in Ohio. So far in 2006, 42 dog-human teams have been paired up. CCI offers the following four types of service dogs:

Mobility – This dog offers assistance to individuals who need help with physical tasks, such as retrieving or picking up items.

Facility – This dog works in rehabilitation centers and convalescent homes.

Hearing – This dog offers assistance for individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing.

Skilled Companion – This dog boosts confidence and alleviates isolation to individuals who are at least five years old.

When the dogs are teamed with their individuals, they train together for a minimum of two weeks.

The puppy raisers pay for all expenses including getting the puppies from the breeders and then back to Ohio.

- 50% reimbursement of seminars, up to a maximum of \$100.00 annually.

- Priority in access to the rings for Utility run-throughs.

- And a reduction in the Annual Training Fee portion of the Membership Fee.

Sandi encouraged instructors to attend seminars and take advantage of some of the instructors’ perks. Barb mentioned that Patricia McConnell is conducting a seminar in Madison this fall. However, she was not sure of the exact dates. A Dog Whisperer seminar will be held in Lake Zurich on June 10th, sponsored by a local rescue group.

Helen Castellano stated that she read and enjoyed the book.

Sandi stated that unfortunately, **Rick Cox** has announced his resignation as the Open Class Instructor, effective June 1st. Sandi will be seeking another Open Class Instructor.

Ronnie Bizer, Obedience Trial Chairperson, was not in attendance, however **Peggy Sue See-**

hafer stated that she had a poster at the meeting for anyone who wanted to sign-up to sponsor a trophy for the obedience trial.

Taffy Wille, Obedience Trial Secretary, reported that the 2006 trial has received all AKC approvals. She received e-mail confirmations from

Membership Meeting Minutes continued from page 6

the entire slate of 2007 judges.

Sue MacPherson, Membership Chairperson, read a list of 15 new applicants for membership. Five applicants were present at the meeting. Helen Castellano made a motion to accept the list as published in the Waggin' Tales. Sue MacPherson seconded the motion. After a brief discussion, the motion was approved by all members voting, without any opposed or abstentions. Welcome to our newest members! ☺

Ingrid Hamburger, Tracking Test Chairperson, reported that the 2006 Tracking Test has received all AKC approvals.

Ingrid stated that Bonnie Kircher died on April 27th. A memorial service was held on Saturday, April 29th, from 2:30 until 5:30 at Spring Grove Funeral Chapel. Peggy Sue Seehafer made a motion that the club donate \$25.00, with the recipient to be determined following the publication of the obituary. Barb Misch seconded the motion. The motion was approved by all members voting, without any opposed or abstentions. (*Secretary's Note:* According to the obituary, donations can be made to the Heart Association, the Cancer Society or the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation.)

Nadine Conner, Public Education Coordinator, reported that she was contacted by Robin Ulrich, with the 12-year-old Girl Scouts in Elburn, to invite us to participate in the first annual pet parade in the parking lot of the grade school on Sunday, May 7th at 2:00 p.m. A \$5.00 donation from the participants will be donated to Paws with a Cause. The girls were planning on having contests such as the ugliest pet and owner-dog look alike. It was suggested that she contact Cindee Malnar regarding a list of club members who have volunteered for past demonstrations. Helen Castellano stated that she would attend.

Helen Castellano, Agility Trial Chairperson, stated that everyone had a wonderful time at the Spring Indoor Agility Trial and that everyone could read about it in the April Waggin' Tales. She reported that the event earned ap-

FVDTC members learned Rescue Breathing, CPR and other valuable First-Aid tips at a



class held for Club members, taught by a local instructor for the American Red Cross. Francene Andresen (above) practices rescue breathing while Peggy Sue Seehafer (left) shows off a finely wrapped "injury."

Membership Meeting, continued

proximately \$2,000.00 profit. Helen said that the owners of the SportsPlex initially stated that the fee for a 2007 event would be \$365.00 per hour as compared to the \$270.00 per hour for

the 2006 event. She is attempting to negotiate a more reasonable cost with the owners. She will keep us informed as things progress.

Helen stated that plans are progressing well for the Fall Outdoor Agility Trial. The event will be located in the southwest corner of the fairgrounds inside the grounds' fencing. Due to the close proximity of the Moose Club, Taffy suggested that we contact the Moose Club to determine if there will be any outdoor events on the Moose grounds that would cause distractions to the agility trial. We will have use of the horse barn (no walls, but a roof), indoor bathrooms and a smaller building for the trial secretary. Helen reported that the Fairgrounds is working to provide suitable parking, though the location is uncertain at this time due to construction. The club's ring gates will be used to create the two 100' x 100' rings necessary for the trial.

Carolyn Pearson, Annual Dinner Chairperson, reported that thanks to the hard work of the committee: **Francene Andresen, Ingrid Hamburger, Sue and Holly MacPherson** the dinner was a lot of fun. However, the committee would not be doing it again next year. Carolyn stated that by waiting until October to start planning the event, it was too late to get everything done without rushing through all the hard work necessary for this festive club event. She stated that if no one volunteers for the next dinner by July 1st, the dinner will be cancelled. **Anyone who wants to volunteer for the dinner and awards chairs should contact Dave Lewis (president@fvdtc.org or 630-897-4267) or her (secretary@fvdtc.org or 630-231-5658) before July 1st.** Suzan Scott, past Awards chair, provided

Membership Meeting continued from page 7

a fantastic task list that is very helpful.

Fundraising Chairperson – VACANT.

Dave reported that we are still in need of a new Fundraising Chair to replace Joe and Kathy Busch who moved

to Florida for a new job. Peggy Sue Seehafer volunteered to help with the gift wrapping event at the

Barnes & Noble during the holiday season.

Penny Breich/Jan Schomer/Sandi Stephenson (Match Co-chairs)

Sandi stated that she needs a Novice A Judge for the May 18th Correction Clinic. She also reported that club members are needed to create a crowd during the CGC and TDI test on May 18th. Sandi also asked that all Correction Clinic Judges be ring-side no later than 6:45 p.m., so the judging can begin promptly at 7:00 p.m. Sandi said that Judges currently receive \$15.00 and earn work credits.

Ingrid Hamburger, Match Steward Chairperson, reported that, as usual, stewards are needed for the May and future correction clinics. Anyone who wants to help can sign up on the poster board at training. Helen Castellano encouraged everyone, especially the new members. Experience is not necessary – on-the-job-training is provided.

Sandi thanked Nadine Conner for obtaining the volunteers for the April correction clinic.

Monthly Dollar Bucket...and the winner of \$7.00 is Sue MacPherson as drawn by new club member, **Pam Harmon**. Sue donated the winnings back to the club. As decided in a recent Board meeting, the dollar bucket amount will be used toward defraying the September tracking test expenses.

Old Business

Modification of Membership Fee Structure

Dave explained that this topic has been brought up during several recent board meetings to better represent the relationship of actively working club members and the club. Dave stated that the following ideas had been introduced at

the meetings and could be used as a starting point for the topic.

- Changing the club calendar to January through December
- Define what available training rings are desired by club members
- Define what other type of classes are desired by club members
- Should dues and fees be tied directly to work and participation?
- Should "work and participation" be measured differently (e.g. with points, work credits, hours, etc.)?
- Does the club want to pursue adding a second night? If so, how would we pay for it, how would we "staff" the extra classes and what type of classes would be offered?

Dave stated that rather than open the discussion at the meeting and continue the meeting until 3:00 a.m., he would be collecting comments from club members. Dave said that in order to obtain feedback from the club members, a survey form will be created to assist in obtaining the information. Once the survey is ready, it will be available on the club's website and in the Waggin' Tales. All comments from the survey will be collected and collated. Many of the ideas that were discussed require additional volunteers to work. Sandi Stephenson stated that she has difficulty getting instructors for the classes that we currently offer.

(Secretary's Note: Each session of classes requires a total of 18 primary and assistant instructors PER night. When 4-H is in session, an additional four to six instructors are required.)

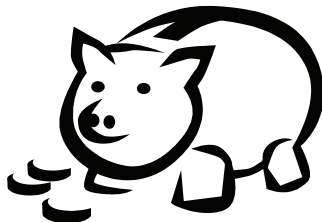
Peggy Sue Seehafer stated that fairgrounds have offered the opportunity to rent the building for two back-to-back nights, such as Wednesday and Thursday. IF it is determined that the membership wants to rent the fairgrounds for additional training/class times AND are willing to volunteer, two nights would be good.

Sandi Stephenson stated that the current Board has done a wonderful job trying to meet the needs of all, from the 4-H students to the competitive club members. She also said that very few clubs can offer activities of this caliber. Peggy Sue stated that a large number of the Advanced Beginner's students are club members who want to continue training their dogs and a small portion are drop-in trainers who pay the guest training fee. Sandi reminded everyone that, with the exception of the rings used by the Puppy and Beginner Classes, all training rings are shareable. The trainers should ask to share the training ring. Sandi stated that anyone who meets with resistance should see her. Carolyn stated that she is always willing to share 'her' 8:00 p.m. Advanced Beginner's class ring. The distractions are good for the students and the trainers.

New Business

Open Communication Expectations

Dave stated that all club members should expect that when feedback is sought by any Board member for club related items, that the information will be shared among the entire Board. This must be done in order to facilitate communication from club members to the entire Board, regardless of which Board member receives the information. This includes snail mail



Membership Meeting, continued from page 8 and e-mail messages sent to Board members' personal e-mail addresses. Unless specifically directed, communications made to one Board member is the same as communicating to all Board members.

Pup & People Pool Party

Carolyn announced that the Second Annual Pup & People Pool Party is scheduled for Saturday, September 9th. **Mark your calendars!** Ask anyone who attended last year how much fun they had and plan on coming out.



A motion was made, seconded and approved to adjourn the meeting at 9:35 p.m.

Editor, continued from page 4

disagreement, is the American Kennel Club's plea for clubs to help them fight an anti-tail docking/ear cropping bill (see page 8).

I have to confess up front, that this is an issue I do not know a lot about, and I would welcome information and opinions from members who have studied it.

The article is a passionate call and a top priority for the AKC, so as editor of an affiliated club newsletter, I felt it was my responsibility to print it. So I am running it, despite the fact that I find the very idea that a dog has to be *surgically altered* in order to conform to a *breed standard*, oxymoronic at best. If the Breed Clubs/AKC won't do away with alterations, and I really don't understand why anything artificial is so important, then I also don't understand why they don't support making them optional. I don't think I would have chosen to cut off Scout's tail had I been given the choice.

As for the New York bill. It is frightening that the legislation proposed would enable any individual dog owner or animal rights group to sue any individual for tail docking or ear cropping. For that reason alone this bill should be fought.

AKC May Board Meeting Highlights

Highlights from the May 2006 meeting of the American Kennel Club Board of Directors include:

- The adoption of a conflict of interest policy for AKC-approved judges, effective January 1, 2007. It prohibits an individual with a significant interest in a dog registry or a dog event-giving organization deemed by the AKC Board to be in competition with AKC from being an AKC judge. It also prohibits AKC judges from judging non-AKC events in the United States. There are exceptions, which are included in the policy.
- The Plott becomes eligible to compete in the Hound Group, effective January 1, 2007.
- The Icelandic Sheepdog was approved to participate in AKC Herding Events effective September 1, 2006.
- The Working Dog Sport was approved, effective January 1, 2007, with regulations to be approved by the Board.

For additional information on these and other actions taken during the May meeting, as well as on new Delegates approved, visit www.akc.org/about/board_minutes.

Changes approved in AKC policy on approval of judges

The Board of Directors of The American Kennel Club adopted a new Judging Approval Policy in May, which includes a procedure for removing an "approved breed" from a judge who is not meeting expected judging standards for that breed. Other highlights of the new Judging Approval Policy include:

- The "New Breed Alternate Method" has replaced the "60-Point Method" for new breed applicants. It focuses on hands-on, breed-specific experience, consistent with the current "12-5-4 Method" requirements.
- Once approved as a judge, the 13 breed limit for applying for additional breeds will be raised to 14 at all levels, subject to all other existing limitations.
- Judges applying for additional breeds will no longer be required to wait a year from the previous staff committee action.
- Also, in order to recapture the interest and support of mentoring judges and show committees, the "in-ring observation" component has been replaced by the "ringside observation" component. This will make more opportunities available to more judges working toward additional breeds.

All changes are effective January 1, 2007. The full policy can be found at: www.akc.org/judges/conformation/index.cfm.

New York bill would prohibit ear cropping / tail docking, could impact events

As many Public Education Coordinators and other fanciers are now aware, New York State Assemblywoman Sandy Galef has introduced **A. 11242**, a bill to prohibit ear cropping and tail docking. The American Kennel Society is asking clubs across the country to help defeat the bill.

Under A. 11242, a person found guilty of tail docking would be guilty of a misdemeanor and could be sentenced up to one year in jail and/or fined up to \$500. Ear cropping would be a misdemeanor punishable by up to one year in jail and/or a fine of up to \$1,000.

In order to show or compete in *any* event in New York, including conformation, field trials, performance events and companion events, an owner would have to prove that the dog's tail was docked prior to Sept. 1, 2006, or that the surgery was performed in another state.

Finally, the bill sets up a private right of action that would allow any dog owner or animal rights organization to sue a person who violates this section. Therefore, an animal rights group could sue a breeder, owner or veterinarian under this proposal.

Fanciers who do not live in New York can influence legislators to oppose this bill because their participation in AKC events affects New York's economy. In 2005, 382 AKC sanctioned events were conducted in New York with 108,085 different exhibitors. In a recent survey on the economic impact of dog shows, AKC found that individual dog show exhibitors spend an average of \$320 per weekend. Based on those numbers, AKC events in New York contributed approximately \$35 million to local economies through participants' spending on lodging, food, entertainment and gasoline.

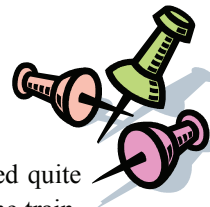
Although this legislation may only affect those whose breeds are cropped and docked, it sets a dangerous precedent by allowing the government to dictate to owners and veterinarians what medical care is appropriate for our animals. This slippery slope may only address ear cropping and tail docking today, but spaying and neutering, dewclaw removal, and a host of other issues will not be far behind. It is the principle, not just the procedure, to which AKC and responsible fanciers must be opposed.

AKC has established a special [Action Center](#) to assist fanciers in their efforts to oppose this dangerous bill. Visit the center for a sample opposition letter, a Call to Action flyer for fanciers to distribute to other concerned dog owners, as well as a host of other information on this topic. We need all voices. Copy and distribute the Call to Action flier at club meetings and events, and write your letter today to defeat A. 11242.

- American Kennel Club



Lost - BUT not yet found



Over time, we've gathered quite a collection of items left in the training building—and it's time to clean house. If anything here sounds like it might belong to you - please check with Carolyn Pearson or someone at the front table ASAP, because anything not claimed by June 30th, will be tossed out or given away!

- 1 Woman's Jacket, khaki w/cream collar, brand – Weather Tamer, size – medium
- 1 Handi Drink dog water bottle
- 1 purple nylon, zippered lunch cooler with a hard plastic liner
- 1 red buckle nylon collar, 3/8" wide, 14" long
- 1 blue nylon lead, 3/8" wide, 5' long
- 1 black nylon traffic lead, 1/4" wide, 14" long
- 1 blue Flexi-leash, size – #3, with the initials "M.C."
- 1 tan long line (no attachment clips), 1/2" wide, 108' long
- 6 white Utility gloves
- 2 brown Utility gloves
- 1 Bait Bag, brand – PetSmart
- 1 nylon bumper with throw strap, 6" long, brand – DoggoneGood
- 1 Clicker, brand—RocketTunnel

Thank you to the contributors to this month's Waggin' Tales: Terri Byerly, Carolyn Pearson, Sue MacPherson, 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

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Return of the nasties

Ample Spring rain and warm days have provided the perfect environment for the rebirth of our prairies, forests and gardens. Unfortunately, it's also been perfect weather for mosquitoes and ticks, and with them the increased potential for disease infested bites.

According to the Lyme Disease Foundation there are more than 850 tick species, some 100 of which are capable of transmitting disease at some point during their lifecycle to pets and humans. A single tick is capable of transmitting multiple diseases through its bite.

Tick Facts

- Ticks are external parasites that feed on the blood of humans, mammals, birds, reptiles and others.
- They are arachnids, not insects.
- Ticks have a four-stage life cycle: egg, larva, nymph and adult, which can range from a few months to several years, depending on the tick and environmental conditions. Each developmental stage requires a blood meal.
- Immature ticks often feed on small, wild animals while the adult tick seeks a larger host, such as your dog.
- Ticks like low-lying brush. High risk areas are wooded areas, low-growing grassland and the seashore.
- A tick uses carbon dioxide, scent, body heat and other stimuli to find a host and its forelegs to feel/grab it.
- The longer an infective tick feeds, the greater the chance of infection. It can take 36 hours for the transmission of the bacteria *Borrelia burgdorferi* which causes Lyme Disease.
- To be infective (capable of acquiring and transmitting infection) the tick must be able to maintain the infection through a molt. For example, dog ticks can acquire the pathogen that causes Lyme disease - so they can be "infected." But they can not maintain the infection as they molt from one stage to another. Therefore, they are not "infective."
- Ticks are most often found around your dog's neck, in the ears, in the folds between the legs and the body, and between the toes.

Treatment and Control

Prompt removal of ticks is very important because it lessens the chance of disease transmission from the tick to your pet. Remove ticks by carefully using tweezers to firmly grip the tick as close to the pet's skin as possible and gently pulling the tick free. After removing the tick, crush it, avoiding contact with tick fluids that can carry disease.

If your pet picks up ticks in the backyard, trimming brush may reduce your pet's exposure to tick habitats. Also remove any leaf litter.

Sources: American Veterinary Medicine Association; The Lyme Disease Foundation; Centers for Disease Control; and Merial Ltd.

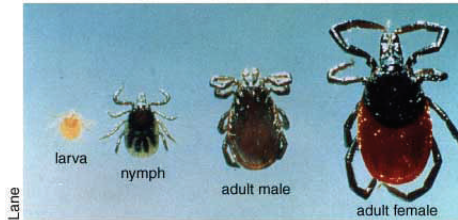
4-Stage Life Cycle

Egg Stage Female ticks lay between 100 and 6,000 eggs (depending on species) in secluded areas where vegetation is dense and several inches high. Eggs hatch in about two weeks.

Larval Stage After hatching, the larvae move into grass or shrubs in search of their first blood meal. Then they drop off the host, back into the environment.

Nymph Stage Larvae molt into their nymph stage and search for another host. Nymphs are small and often go undetected, increasing the chance for disease transmission.

Adult Stage Once the nymph has had its blood meal, it matures into adulthood. Adult female ticks feed on a host for 8–12 days and can increase to 100 times their original weight. The female will mate then fall off the host and lay her eggs in a secluded place – beginning the life cycle again.



Black-legged (deer) tick

Warning Signs of Infection

- **Fever**
- **Lameness**
- **Loss of Appetite**
- **Cough**
- **Sudden onset of pain in your dog's legs or body**
- **Arthritis or swelling in your dog's joints**
- **Lethargy or depression**
- **Contact your veterinarian immediately if you believe that your pet has been bitten and infected by a tick.**

Coming next month...

Those darned mosquitoes!

Sportsmanship codified by AKC

PREFACE: The sport of purebred dog competitive events dates prior to 1884, the year of AKC's birth. Shared values of those involved in the sport include principles of sportsmanship. They are practiced in all sectors of our sport: conformation, performance and companion. Many believe that these principles of sportsmanship are the prime reason why our sport has thrived for over one hundred years. With the belief that it is useful to periodically articulate the fundamentals of our sport, this code was developed in February 2006.

- Sportsmen respect the history, traditions and integrity of the sport of purebred dogs.
- Sportsmen commit themselves to values of fair play, honesty, courtesy and vigorous competition, as well as winning and losing with grace.
- Sportsmen refuse to compromise their commitment and obligation to the sport of purebred dogs by injecting personal advantage or consideration into their decisions or behavior.
- The sportsman judge judges only on the merits of the dogs and considers no other factors.
- The sportsman judge or exhibitor accepts constructive criticism.
- The sportsman exhibitor declines to enter or exhibit under a judge where it might reasonably appear that the judge's placements could be based on something other than the merits of the dogs.
- The sportsman exhibitor refuses to compromise the impartiality of a judge.
- The sportsman respects the AKC bylaws, rules, regulations and policies governing the sport of purebred dogs.
- Sportsmen find that vigorous competition and civility are not inconsistent and are able to appreciate the merit of their competition and the effort of competitors.
- Sportsmen welcome, encourage and support newcomers to the sport.
- Sportsmen will deal fairly with all those who trade with them.
- Sportsmen are willing to share honest and open appraisals of both the strengths and weaknesses of their breeding stock.
- Sportsmen spurn any opportunity to take personal advantage of positions offered or bestowed upon them.
- Sportsmen always consider as paramount the welfare of their dog.
- Sportsmen refuse to embarrass the sport, the American Kennel Club, or themselves while taking part in the sport.

Warning, continued from page 5

of fatalities with dogs and their product. Another call to Greg jarred something in his mind that warned of Ivermectin with Collies and other herding type dogs. Another call to the hotline finally panned out. They confirmed that Nicki's symptoms were consistent with Ivermectin poisoning. We ended up with Nicki at Greg's office hooked up to an IV.

Induced vomiting was not an option. Once the symptoms became evident, the charcoal used to induce vomiting could potentially be ingested into her system causing death. It was sit and wait. Apparently the symptoms can become worse in the 24-36 hour range.

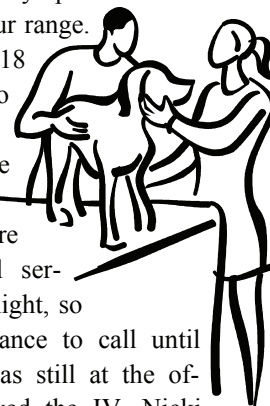
We were at about 18 hours when she got to the Vet.

Greg suggested we call him later to get her status. We were attending a memorial service for a friend last night, so we didn't get the chance to call until about 9 p.m. Greg was still at the office. They had removed the IV. Nicki was eating and drinking on her own. She was walking more steadily. Her heart-rate was somewhat stabilized. She was no longer slobbering. He felt that she was recovering and she could just as well recover at home. If we were willing to pick her up, he would stay until we got there. Was there any doubt???

This morning Nicki was improving more still. She is much steadier on her feet. We feel very blessed to have survived this situation. We are grateful that she is a fighter! I would have never suspected that this product could have such a devastating effect. Our Vet told us that if she had been a Collie, she would probably be dead. Apparently this common worming product for horses is also pretty toxic.

A final note to end the story: The lady at the Animal Poison Control Center hotline (888-426-4435) told the Vet that this is the first time in her 14 years with the service that the phones were down. Once we made contact with them they were great to work with. Keep their number handy.

Regards,
Marie Jarosch



June Through August 2006

RING LAYOUT

**FOX
VALLEY
DOG
TRAINING
CLUB**

6-9 p.m.

**KANE
COUNTY
FAIR-
GROUNDS**

**ST.
CHARLES,
ILLINOIS**

RING #5

6:00 – NOVICE PRACTICE
7:00 – ADV. BEGINNERS
8:00 – ADV. BEGINNERS
9:00 – NOVICE PRACTICE

RING #4

6:00 – UTILITY PRACTICE
7:00 – UTILITY RUN THRU
8:00 – UTILITY RUN THRU
9:00 – UTILITY PRACTICE

RING #6

6:00 – BEGINNER CLASS
7:00 – ADV. BEGINNERS
8:00 – ADV. BEGINNERS
9:00 – NOVICE PRACTICE

RING #3

6:00 – 4H
7:00 – PUPPY CLASS
8:00 – PUPPY CLASS
9:00 – NOVICE PRACTICE

RING #7

6:00 – UTILITY PRACTICE
7:00 – UTILITY RUN THRU
8:00 – UTILITY PRACTICE
9:00 – UTILITY PRACTICE

RING #2

6:00 – 4H
7:00 – BEGINNER CLASS
8:00 – BEGINNER CLASS
9:00 – BEGINNER CLASS

RING #8

6:00 – OPEN PRACTICE
7:00 – OPEN RUN THRU
8:00 – OPEN CLASS
9:00 – OPEN PRACTICE

RING #1

6:00 – 4H
7:00 – RING READY CLASS
8:00 – CONFORMATION
9:00 – NOVICE PRACTICE

**NOTE!
ALL
GUEST
TRAINERS
MUST
REGISTER
AT THE
INFORMATION
DESK**



FOX VALLEY DOG TRAINING CLUB 2006 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

The new Membership Year begins June 1, 2006.. Dues for the year are due by June 30, 2006.

Your name will be omitted from the 2006-2007 Roster, and your subscription to Waggin' Tales will end with the July issue unless your dues are received, along with this completed form, by July 10th.

Even if you do not owe dues (lifetime members, etc.) PLEASE take a moment to complete this form to ensure the accuracy of our 2006-07 Roster.

Please print the information as you would like it to appear in the Club Roster:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zipcode: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

You must include an email address if you select "via e-mail" for Waggin' Tales delivery

Breed(s) of Dogs: _____ Training Areas of Interest: _____

I would like to receive my copy of the monthly Club newsletter, Waggin' Tales: Mailed to my home E-mailed to me
 Thanks, but I don't want it

Would you like to volunteer for the Grievance Committee? Yes No Name _____
 Yes No Name _____

FVDTC continues to believe that all Club members have a commitment to sportsmanship, community and canine welfare. All individual living in your household, who are to be considered voting Club members, should read the following. Please sign on the line below stating that you have read this statement.

I shall endeavor to conduct myself at all times in a manner that reflects credit upon Fox Valley Dog Training Club, regardless of the location or the circumstances. I will protect and advance the interests of the Club by encouraging sportsmanlike behavior at training nights, correction clinics, obedience trials, tracking tests and agility trials. I will uphold the Club's commitment to good sportsmanship, community support, and the welfare of the dogs with which we work.

Signature

Signature

Continued on back

2006 FVDTC MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Please Circle your Membership Category:

Membership Category:	Annual Dues:	Name:
Regular, Training*	\$90	_____
Regular, Non-training	\$45	_____
Lifetime or Board, Training*	\$45	_____
Lifetime or Board, Non-training	FREE	_____
Amount Enclosed	\$_____**	

* In accordance with our by-laws, if you plan to apply for an award at next year's banquet, be sure to select one of the Training categories

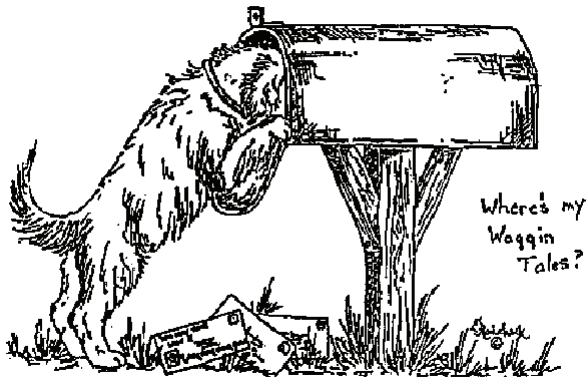
** In accordance with our by-laws, a \$5 re-instatement fee will be charged for dues not received by 7-10-2006.

Please mail this completed application form, along with your check, made payable to FOX VAL-LEY DOG TRAINING CLUB to:

Sue MacPherson
FVDTC Membership Chairperson
P.o. Box 222
Wasco, IL 60183

Questions may be directed to Sue at: membership@fvdtc.org or at 630-584-1002

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



2006 Calendar of Events

June

8	Thursday	Regular Training
9	Friday	Board Meeting
11	Sunday	Waggin' Tales Deadline
15	Thursday	Correction Clinic
22	Thursday	Regular Training
29	Thursday	Regular Training

July

1	Thursday	Regular Training
2	Sunday	Waggin' Tales Deadline
4	Tuesday	Happy Independence Day!
6	Thursday	Regular Training
11	Tuesday	Regular Training
20	Thursday	NO CLASSES Kane County Fair
27	Thursday	Regular Training