

Waggin' Tales

"A well trained dog is a happy dog"

Volume 1 Issue 10

November 1997

WHO'S NEWS? LEGS AND BRAGS

From Ingrid Hamburger:

On Oct. 26th at Glenbard's tracking test "Heike" got her TD. Ingrid reports, "as far as I know she is the youngest Giant Schnauzer in the country to receive this title at the age of 6 1/2 months. Her track was 492 yards long with 5 turns, she finished in 6 minutes. It was her first try and she was the only one passing that day. I'm so proud of my little girl"

From the editor:

GoFer got two Novice Agility legs at CarDunAl on Oct. 25 & 26. She got a 95 and a 100 (perfect score) and first place in Novice B. She also got her first CD leg at our trial on Nov. 9.

From Janice Pechtold:

Ch. BlueBelle's Son of a Gunner, CGC got his first CD leg at the Fort Dearborn Bassett Hound Club in Berrien Springs, MI., on Sept. 29, 1997. His score was 185 1/2.

From Georgia Fiorito:

Mocha got both her Canadian and American CDX.

Her Canadian legs were:

Wallaceburg 7/19: 194 1/2 - 1st place

Leamington 8/30: 194 - 1st place

Leamington 8/31: 191 1/2 - 1st place - CDX

Her American legs were:

Northwest 5/17: 195 - 4th place

Glenbard 11/1: 191

Glenbard 11/2: 195 1/2 - 3rd place
CDX

From Helen Castellano:

"I want to thank all of you for sharing two very precious moments with Jena and me on Nov. 8 & 9, when we obtained our first & second legs in Utility A. Thank you for your support during the rough times as we struggled, your encouragement to continue on when we failed, and your many training suggestions and tips as Jena and I worked through our problems. Thank you Mary Bradley for each and every run-thru and a very special thanks to by obedience coach and good friend, Ronnie Bizer. It was a wonderful moment for me and I am glad that my fellow club members and friends were there to share it."

Thank You

I want to thank all the members who so generously donated to the raffle held at our trial. We made \$230. - *Georgia Fiorito*

Bait Bag

(bat bag) n. A collection of tidbits.

Chiropractic Schedule

Dr. Hansen will be at training on the following days: 12/11, 1/29, 2/26. If you need an appointment you should call Dr. Hansen directly at (847) 551-1279.

HOROSCOPE

The Sagittarius Dog

November 23- December 21

The Sagittarius Dog is carefree and freedom-loving. Sagittarius dogs love wide open spaces and the ability to explore them. They are happy and good-humored dogs who love to romp and play with their owners. Sagittarius dogs are open and honest, never hiding how they feel, which is usually happy and jovial. Sagittarius dogs are happiest when they are in an open field with an owner to throw a ball.

Thank You

Thanks to Dorothy Vettel and Lloyd and Mildred Spencer for submitting the member profiles for the last issue. Many members told me how much they enjoyed reading them! We'd love to hear from more lifetime members! - *The Editor*

Thank You

I want to thank the two dozen or so members who I spoke with after my letter was published last month. I greatly appreciated your words of support. *Wally O'Brien*

1997 AWARDS PACKAGEGeneral Information:

This year the Annual Awards Banquet is March 14, 1998. It will be held at Shannon Hall in Batavia. We hope many members will attend to honor those who have earned titles in 1997.

Please make sure to return your awards forms to: Kay Weber, 34W922 Chillem, Batavia, IL 60510, by December 30, 1997. Enclose any photos needed for your award. Clothing articles should be given to Kay by Dec. 30. If you owe money for an award, you must enclose a check payable to FVDTC. Send any information on Dog World Awards immediately.

If you received a special award last year, please return it by Dec. 30th.

Awards are given for titles earned in 1997, even if legs were earned in the previous year. All scores for special awards must be for 1997.

You do not have to fill out the sheet asking for all your scores if you are not competing for special awards.

The following pages outline the FVDTC Awards package for 1997. We think that all members agree that recognition for accomplishments is most important and the amount of money spent on an award is not important. There has been much discussion lately about how to encourage more members to participate in competition. With these things in mind the awards committee thinks we have a program which allows for recognition for the maximum number of members. This will require some compromise, but we think the members will agree that this is worth the results. The changes are detailed below:

AKC Titles:

These basically remain unchanged. Some awards were shifted to other groups, and now there is no more than \$5 difference between any of the awards in the

same group. A member may choose from a lower group if they wish. A member may also "buy up" to a higher group. So if you had your heart set on a particular item in another group, for a few dollars more you can have it.

A large percentage of the members thought that AKC Agility should be recognized at the same level as the equivalent Obedience level. We compromised. We placed the Agility titles one level below the equivalent Obedience title.

The members thought that \$150 was too much for an OTCH Award. In fact, no OTCH award has ever been given at that amount. The last OTCH awards that were given were \$75. We have placed the OTCH in the F Group (\$85).

There has been no award for Champion Tracker. We compromised on what the members wanted with some minority opinion. We have decided that when a member gets a Champion Tracker, they will be able to select from a group F award, INSTEAD of the either the TDX (D) or VST (E) award, depending on which title earned them the CT. Of course the member may chose any lower level award as well. We have never given an award for either the VST or the CT and will not do so this year either.

Non AKC Titles:

Over the past 4 years there have been an average of 35 members getting awards. Of these 35 members, about 20 also get Canadian Awards. About 12 members earn UKC titles, but no awards. Nine of those members who earned UKC titles also earned Canadian titles. No member gets only UKC or CKC titles, they also earn AKC titles and awards.

Members think we should offer UKC awards at the same level as Canadian titles. However, members think we spend too much on all Canadian awards over \$20-

\$25. Since UKC allows for mixed breed dogs to get titles, recognizing UKC titles would allow for many more members, especially many just starting out, to compete, get titles and earn awards.

In the spirit of compromise, we are offering one award for all Non-AKC awards. There would be one award per dog, given when the dog gets it's first Non-AKC title. This could be a Canadian title, or UKC obedience or Agility title (there is no Canadian Agility). Every year additional titles would be added to the award. If your dog already has a Non-AKC award, we would add those previous titles onto the award you are given this year. The members would have a choice between a picture award or a painted award. An example of this award is enclosed. Please do not get distracted by the details - the layout and format has yet to be finalized.

Aldythe Comstock

This award has been reinstated. This award is a framed 8"x10" photo taken by Jean Airey, with a commemorative plate. In the case that a dog gets both a TD and TDX in the same year, the award would be a 11"x14" photo rather than two 8"x10" photos. It is a rare that a dog get both the TD and TDX in the same year, and many dogs only get a TD.

We are also recommending at the December Board meeting that we give this award to those members who did not get the award in the two years it was not offered. There were 6 TD's and 4 TDX's in 1995-1996. One dog got the TD and TDX in 1995, two dogs got TD's in 1995-1996 and the TDX in 1997. It will be about \$200 to give the awards from 1995-1996 and an additional \$24 to cover the two dogs that had titles in 1995-1996 and 1997. This is assuming those members wish to receive this award.

- The Awards Committee

Descriptions of Awards Offered for AKC TitlesGroup A Awards

Pencil Holder - Wooden pencil holder with your dogs head painted on it.
 Tote bag - Canvas tote bag with your dog's picture painted on it.
 Plaque - 7" x 9" wall plaque.
 Portfolio - Personalized eelskin portfolio with calculator.
 Wheel Clock - Personalized black desk clock.

Group B Awards:

Brass Clock - Personalized brass and glass desk clock.
 8"x10" - black & white or color framed photo by Jean Airey or by John Felix. Please write 'John' or 'Jean' next to your choice
 Weather Barometer - Personalized weather barometer.
 Weather Clock - Personalized weather clock.

Group C Awards:

Airbrushed head - Your dog's head airbrushed on cotton blend clothing item (photo and clothing provided by you)
 Charcoal Portrait - Portrait of your dog drawn in charcoal by Allana Kereluk. unframed.
 11" x 14" - 11"x14" framed photograph by Jean Airey.
 Cash - a \$45 check for scent articles (CDX only).
 Wood album - Wooden scrapbook with your dog's picture painted on it.
 Wood Clock - Wooden clock with your dog's picture painted on it.

Group D Awards:

Chug a lug tankards - Two personalized pewtarex tankards.
 Pastel Portrait - Pastel (chalks) portrait of your dog on sanded paper by Allana Kereluk. unframed.
 10" Revere Wear Bowl - Personalized silver plated bowl.
 16"x20" Color - Framed 16"x20" photo by Jean Airey.

Group E Awards:

Airbrushed Body - Your full dog airbrushed on cotton blend clothing item (photo and clothing provided by you)
 11"x14" Color Photo - Framed 11"x14" color phot by John Felix.
 11"x14" foam mounted - Framed 11"x14" photo by Jean Airy mounted on foam to look like a painting.
 Watch - Watch by Terry Sidell.

Group F Awards:

Portrait - 11"x14" framed and matted, handpainted, black & white portrait by Peggy Sue.
 16"x20" foam mounted - Framed 16"x 20" photo by Jean Airy mounted on foam to look like a painting.

NOTE: A member may purchase an item from one category higher for \$15, with the exception of level E to level F which is \$20 additional. Please indicate your choice(s) on the award form. One award per title. Use a separate sheet for each dog.

Members can see samples of Allana Kereluk's work at training during December.

An Awards Committee member will contact you regarding having any photographs taken, please do not make an appointment on your own.

Special Awards

The following awards are special awards awarded in addition to the awards earned for titles. In order to be eligible for these awards, make sure that you have filled out a score sheet for every dog that you want to be considered for these awards.

Aldythe Comstock Memorial Award - Any dog earning a TD or TDX in 1997.

Debbie Orr Memorial Award - Member whose dog earned the most AKC or international equivalent titles in 1997.

Dorothy Dimond Memorial Trophy - Dog that receives the highest average score in regular classes in at least 3 AKC trials in 1997. Dog must be trained and shown by the member. All scores must be included. All NQ's are 165, unless higher.

Ed Kneip Award - Dog who earned the highest combined score in Open B and Utility A or B in one AKC trial in 1997.

Founders Award - Offered by Bonnie Barry in memory of the Founders of FVDTC. This goes to the dog who earned the 3 highest scores in regular classes at AKC trials in 1997. Goes to a new member each year.

Heather Memorial Award - Offered by Nancy Gillum in memory of Briarwood's Heather Miss AM/CAN CD. It goes to the dog who earned the 3 highest scores in Novice A at AKC trials in 1997. Goes to new member each year.

High Qualifying Average - For Novice, Open and Utility. Dog must have a minimum of 3 scores from AKC trials (Novice, Open or Utility) in 1997. All qualifying scores must be submitted.

Kanosak Kennel Award - Dog with the 3 highest Utility A scores at AKC trials in 1997. Minimum of 5 scores must be submitted.

Ruth Anderson Memorial TDX Award - any dog earning a TDX in 1997.

Sally Compton Award For Outstanding Service To The Club

Specify the name of the person you wish to nominate and why you feel they deserve this award. The Board will decide the winner. No Board member is eligible.

Eligibility

Please list how you earned your work credits:

Please list which three meetings you attended:

If you have not met the above requirements, please state your reason below:

Patches

Please mark which patches you wish to receive for the titles you earned in 1997. Next to the patch please write in the number you wish to have on the patch. If this is your second CD for example, write '2' next to that patch.

AMERICAN

CD_____ CDX_____ UD_____ UDX_____
OTCH_____ TD_____ TDX_____ CH_____

CANADIAN

CD_____ CDX_____ UD_____ CH_____
TD_____ TDX_____

Other accomplishments: If your dog(s) has earned a title or honor that is not eligible for an award, please list it below so that we may honor your dog's accomplishment by listing it in the Awards Program. Such accomplishments would be Hunt Tests, Herding Trials, Flyball, etc..... (attach additional sheets if needed)

Accomplishments: _____

Non-AKC Titles

If you earned any Canadian or UKC titles during 1997 please list them below:

If you have earned any Canadian or UKC titles previous to 1997 on this dog, please list them below, along with the year they were earned:

Please check one:

I want the painted award _____ I want the photo award _____

FOX VALLEY DOG TRAINING CLUB 1997 AWARDS

MEMBER NAME _____

DOG NAME _____

SHOW DATE	KENNEL CLUB	CLASS	SCORE	TITLE

Please indicate which Special Award(s) you wish to compete for. Fill in the required information below. (Special awards are for AKC shows only)

High Qualifying Average (ALL qualifying scores must be submitted)
NOVICE _____ (List the average of all qualifying scores in Novice)

OPEN _____ (List the average of all qualifying scores in Open)

UTILITY _____ (List the average of all qualifying scores in Utility)

Dorothy Dimond Memorial Award (ALL scores must be submitted, NQ's, unless higher are 165)

AVERAGE SCORE _____ (List the average of ALL shows)

Debbie Orr Memorial Award (list all AKC or international equivalents above) Total number of titles _____

Heather Memorial Award (3 highest scores in Novice A) _____

Kanosak Kennel Award (At least 5 utility A shows must be listed above) 3 Highest scores in Utility A _____

Founders Award (3 highest scores) _____

Ed Kniep Award (Highest combined score and trial date) _____

FOX VALLEY DOG TRAINING CLUB AWARDS 1997

Instructions:

1. Please fill in your name and dog's name as you wish it to appear in the program and personalized items. Use a separate sheet for each dog.
2. Fill in title date below title. If you are competing for special prizes fill in special prize sheet.
3. Check the box for the award(s) you wish to receive. One award per title. You may choose a lower category or 'purchase' from the next level.
4. If you choose an item in the light gray area, please submit a check for the amount listed below the area. Make check to F.V.D.T.C.
5. If your award requires a photograph (*) please enclose.
6. If a clothing article is required (**), please give article to Kay Weber by Dec.30th

MEMBER NAME: _____ DOG'S NAME: _____ CALL NAME: _____ ^ see general instructions

TITLE	CH	NA	CD	OA	CDX	TD	AX	UD	TDX	MX	UDX	VST	CT^	OTCH
DATE OF TITLE														
AWARDS														
PENCIL HOLDER*	A													
TOTE BAG*	A													
PLAQUE	A													
PORTFOLIO	A													
WHEEL CLOCK	A													
BRASS CLOCK	B													
8"x10" B&W PHOTO	B													
8" x 10" COLOR	B													
WEATHER BAROMETER	B													
WEATHER CLOCK	B													
AIRBRUSHED HEAD**	C	\$15 for above items												
CHARCOAL PORTRAIT*	C													
11"x14" COLOR (Jean)	C													
CASH (CDX only)	C													
WOOD ALBUM*	C													
WOOD CLOCK*	C													
CHUG A LUG TANKARDS	D													
PASTEL PORTRAIT*	D													
10" REVEREWEAR BOWL	D													
LEATHER CHECKBOOK*	D													
16" x 20" COLOR (Jean)	D													
AIRBRUSHED BODY**	E													
11"x14" COLOR PHOTO	E													
11"x14" FOAM MOUNT	E													
WATCH	E													
PORTRAIT (PEGGY SUE)	F													
16"x20" FOAM MOUNT	F													

\$15 for above items

\$15 for above items

\$20 for above items

Representative Example of Non-AKC Award

FOX VALLEY DOG TRAINING CLUB HONORS JEDEE'S INDIA INK "INDIA"	
Picture or painting here	
CKC CD 1995	
UKC AG-I 1996	
UKC CD 1996	
UKC AG-II 1997	
CKC CDX 1997	

NOTE: This not the actual size

Waggin' Tales

FOX VALLEY DOG TRAINING CLUB

Presents:

Patricia B. McConnell, Ph.D.

and the

ADVANCED CANINE BEHAVIOR SEMINAR

Get the real answers to why dogs do what they do!

Learn to speak "dog" like a native!

Learn how to use both Operant and Classical Conditioning to have the dog you want.

Watch and participate in Hands On Workshops on Diagnosing and Treating
Aggression-related problems in Dogs.

February 14th and 15th, 1998
Radisson Hotel Lisle-Naperville, IL.
(Right off I-88 at Naperville Rd.)

Any serious student of dog behavior, whether a professional dog trainer, class instructor, veterinarian, veterinary technician, groomer or devoted dog owner will profit from this information packed, hands-on and entertaining seminar. Attend one or both days. Don't miss it!

Seminar Curriculum:

Saturday, February 14
9 am to 4:30 pm

Canid Ethology: Saturday morning is devoted to an advanced understanding of who dogs are and why they do what they do. Learn exactly how genetics, in-utero development, early development and environment influence a dog's behavior in any given situation. For example, did you know that a dog's position in the uterus can effect it's behavior toward other dogs as an adult? Did you know that what some people call "socialization" actually should start the day your pup is born? How are dogs different than wolves, and how are they the same? We'll talk about how primates can get in trouble "talking" to canines because they speak different languages!

Canine Learning: Operant and Classical Conditioning: Saturday afternoon is devoted to an understanding of how learning effects a dog's behavior, and how we can practically apply learning techniques developed in the laboratory to our canine companions. We will carefully describe and define Operant Conditioning, and do lots of hand-on work with demonstration dogs to illustrate some of the most useful (and fun!) methods of Operant Conditioning and Shaping, including Click and Treat Training.

Less understood, but tremendously powerful, the use of Pavlovian Classical Conditioning to change behavior is an essential ingredient in the repertoire of anyone who is serious about understanding and effecting behavior in canids. After an introduction to the process you will participate in designing programs to use Classical conditioning to improve obedience or solve serious behavior problems for demonstration dogs.

Sunday, February 15th
9 am to 4:00 pm

Diagnosing and Treating Aggression in Dogs: This workshop will enhance your ability to understand canine aggression toward people and/or other dogs. The entire day will be devoted to aggression: first, diagnosing why an individual is acting aggressively, and understanding what the triggering stimuli are that elicit the aggression. After a thoughtful evaluation, we will communally develop a treatment plan and implement the initial stages of treatment for each demonstration dog. (Any dogs at risk of causing injury will be muzzled.) These case studies will allow participants to consider each situation in depth and significantly improve their ability to prevent, diagnose and help treat this most serious of behavioral problems.

You'll advance your skills at reading canine visual signals by evaluating videos and slides to determine your dog's internal state by reading his or her external visual signals. Accurately interpreting a dog's visual signals can make the difference between diagnosing or mis-diagnosing a dog's aggressive behavior. Participants at the Association for Professional Dog Trainers Conference in Phoenix called these video's "the best footage of dog behavior in the country" --- don't miss them!

About Dr. McConnell:

Dr. Patricia McConnell received her Ph.D. in Zoology from the University of Wisconsin-Madison researching dog behavior and communication between professional trainers and working domestic animals. She is currently the owner of Dog's Best Friend, Ltd., a training and consulting business that offers family dog training classes and diagnosis and treatment for serious behavioral problems in companion animals. She is Assistant Adjunct Professor in Zoology at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, teaching "The Biology and Philosophy of Human/Animal Relationships" in Zoology and Wildlife Ecology, and "Small Animal Ethology" to students of Veterinary Medicine. Co-host of Public Radio International's "Calling All Pets," Dr. McConnell gives advice about behavior problems over many stations across the country. She is Chair of the Issues in Applied Animal Behavior for the Animal Behavior Society of North America. Besides raising and training Border collies in sheep herding competitions, she travels extensively from her farm in Black Earth, Wisconsin, giving speeches and seminars around the country.

YES! I want to attend: _____ Both Days (\$75.00)

_____ Sat. Feb. 14, 1998 only (\$40) _____ Sun. Feb. 15, 1998 only (\$40)

Name _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Do you have a dog you would like to have participate in the workshop? If so, please attach a separate sheet detailing your dog's problem(s). Please include your phone number.

Make your check payable to: Fox Valley Dog Training Club (F.V.D.T.C.)
Mail to: Kay Weber

34W922 Chillem
Batavia, IL. 60510
(630) 406-8348

Please call Kay with any questions:
Attendance is limited so sign up NOW!

*Membership Meeting
Highlights
November 5, 1997*

Meeting brought to order at 7:35 p.m. The October Meeting minutes approved as published. Several items of correspondence were read.

Kay Weber reported for Cindy Pakenas (Second Vice-President). There are brochures ready to be distributed to the local veterinary offices for the Dr. P. McConnell seminar.

Penny Legner (Treasurer) reported that the bills are paid and we're not broke.

Cheryl Lewis (Director of Training) announced that there are two Puppy classes, one at 7:00 and one at 8:00 p.m. There is one Beginners class at 7:00 and at 9:00, and TWO 8:00 Beginners classes.

At the conclusion of the last session of the Puppy and Beginners classes, the students were asked to fill out and return an evaluation survey. With the exception of the noise levels, there were only positive comments made on the evaluations surveys.

Cheryl thanked all of the instructors, assistants and the graduation judges for all of their hard work this year.

Mary Bradley will be conducting a beginning group Utility class at 7:00 p.m.. This will be an ongoing, drop in class. All members who wish to get involved are encouraged to attend, all of the instruction will be based on the student's own level. Cheryl reminded members, that guest trainers may NOT use the Utility practice ring, however Mary Bradley will put them through a run-through if it will not interfere with any club member's time.

Cheryl also announced that several instructors will be rotating their class times. Nancy Pederson and Rick Cox have been teaching the 8:00 p.m. Advanced Beginners class. They will now combine with Wally O'Brien's Ring-Ready class to accommodate Advanced Beginners and "almost ready to compete" Novice handlers at 7:00 p.m.. This class will occupy two rings for one hour. Currently Carolyn Pearson will be teaching the 8:00 p.m. Advanced Beginners class on a temporary basis. Mary Russell has volunteered to assist in that class. Anyone wishing to become a permanent instructor for that class should see Cheryl. Cheryl also reported that she needs an individual who will be willing to do Utility run-throughs from 7:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. while Mary is teaching the Utility class.

Will Short (Trial Chairperson) reported that **all** classes for our trial are full. The stewards are asked to be at the fairgrounds between 7:15 a.m. and 7:30 a.m. on Sunday. Susan Yee will have the kitchen open with a hot breakfast and donuts available, as well as coffee, tea and juice. Any individual who is working at the trial for the entire day, will receive a free lunch ticket. Will also announced that an AKC representative will be at our trial. If there are any problems noticed that day, please see Will. We are still in need of a grounds chairperson, Debbie James, an advanced beginner student, has volunteered to help. Car-Dun-Al will be at the fairgrounds at 7:00 p.m. on Friday for booth set-up.

Will also commented that the information regarding the trial limits in Wally O'Brien's recent letter in the Waggin' Tales, was inappropriate at this time and served no other purpose than to distress Taffy Wille, Trial Secretary for the first year.

Waggin' Tales

Kay Weber (Waggin' Tales Editor) reported that the next deadline is Monday, November 17th.

Peggy Sue Seehafer (Graduation Chairperson) stated that the next (and final 1997) graduation will on December 23rd. She is in need of two judges for the 7:00 classes. Any volunteers should contact her immediately. The ribbons have been ordered.

Judy Anderson (Membership Chairperson) sent her report to Carolyn Pearson. After the members' applications were read, Ronnie Bizer made a motion to accept the list as read, the motion was seconded by Linda Benson. All approved without any discussion.

One new member, Bill Allen, was at the meeting. He stated that he has attended puppy class with Taffy Wille and a beginners class with Gail O'Brien. He has a mixed breed approximately 8 months old that just loves coming to classes.

Tracey Mohr (Public Education Liaison) reported that the AKC materials have been ordered and are expected to arrive soon.

Ingrid Hamburger (Match Steward Chairperson) reported that the October match was the last match of the year.

Helen Castellanos (Match Chairperson) reported that she's done for the year.

Kay Weber (Statistician Chairperson) reported that she will accept any information regarding work credits for the year.

Kay Weber/Heather King (Awards Dinner Chairperson) stated that the Awards Dinner will be held in Shannon Hall in Batavia on March

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14, 1998. Details will be in the next Waggin' Tales.

Jack Hlustik (Tracking Secretary) sent his report to Drew Graham. Carolyn Pearson read the following:

< At the September 14, 1997 Fox Valley Tracking Test, there were three passes (one TDX, Sylvia Schultz and 2 T's). Fox Valley made a profit of \$32.75 before trophy expenses for this event. It is apparent to me that the initial fees of \$60.00 for an X and \$35 for a T were set too low. A fee structure of \$70-75 for an X and \$35 - 40 for T's should be considered for future tests.

< I have applied for and received AKC permission to hold the tracking event on March 15, 1998. This information should be given to the Tracking Secretary for 1998.

A little discussion ensued regarding the entry fees for the tests. The general consensus at the meeting was that our fees were in line with all of the clubs in the area and should not be raised any higher.

Monthly Dollar Bucket

And the Winner of \$6.00 is Don Kloss as drawn by Bill Allen, a new club member.

Old Business

< Georgia Fiorito is still accepting for raffle prizes for the trial, they can be brought Thursday night at training.

< Kay Weber reported that an ad has been placed in the Front & Finish newspaper for December and January issues for the February seminar. She

currently has some volunteers, but will need more for the weekend of the seminar. She explained that Dr. McConnell likes to have a club member assisting any "subject dog" during the seminar. She also stated that Dr. McConnell does not want to have more than one dog in the seminar room at a time. The seminar attendees will need to provide their own lunch, the club will provide beverages. There is food available at the seminar site. The contract has been signed with no deposit required at the time of the signing. The seminar will be from 9:00 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. on Saturday and from 9:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. on Sunday. There are two other hotels that accept dogs in the vicinity of the seminar.

< The motion that was made by Will Short in the October meeting regarding the training member definition was addressed. Linda Benson made a motion that the discussion be tabled, Georgia Fiorito seconded the motion. All members present approved the motion. None opposed and no abstentions.

New Business

< Carolyn Pearson presented an idea regarding sending Congratulation cards to Novice A entrants. Asked for volunteers to help write the cards. Penny Brcich, Peggy Sue Seehafer, Ann White and Cheryl Lewis volunteered to help. Penny Brcich did a little informational description for the Novice A entrants.

< Long time member Jay Schindlbeck, was present at the meeting and spoke briefly about the club's history. He announced that he brought a

Waggin' Tales

club related scrapbook for everyone to peruse, following the meeting.

< Ronnie Bizer stated that she saw Dorothy Vettel in Springfield, Dorothy asked her to say "hi" to all members for her.

< Motion to adjourn at 8:40 p.m..

She was my shadow. She is gone now, and her presence is greatly missed. She left me at such an early age, only 5½. All too soon to say goodbye.

From the time she came into our lives, a fiesty black ball of fur that took over our home and promptly was nicknamed the "brat", she was at my heels. She tormented the other dogs, but won their hearts at the same time. Her personality would go from wonderful to nervwrecking - at 12 weeks she walked into a puppy match and acted as sweet and innocent as can be, won it all against much older dogs then at home would chase the barn cats even though they would've ripped her apart if they could only slow down enough that they could get ahold of her.

At four months of age she was working to hand signals; aiming to please to commands and praises, but then was caught standing on the kitchen table licking the icing off a birthday cake.

As she grew and we went through obedience training she reveled at working with me. She brought to me a real appreciation of how a human and dog can work together. She also was the only "one" thus far that ever questioned my authority. All the others had been boys - they always looked at me and did an "aw mom", then would do as I say. She, on the other hand, gave me the looks of "you've GOT to be kidding" or "are you sure about this?"...then would proceed with what my original plans were in the first place.

She may have questioned my decisions at times; but she was always there. With me, by my side, at my heels; ready to walk, play, chase sheep, go for a ride or go to bed. All I had to do was reach out with my hand and I could touch her. Or she would be there laying on my feet so I would not be able to leave without her.

At an early age she started one of her more noticeable habits. She would insist that she went into the bathroom with me. (Not to inspect what was going on, just to be "closeby!") Those times that I did make it into the bathroom and shut the door before she made it there she would throw herself at the door, collapse half on the floor and half leaning on the door and give out this very audible sigh. And, when I opened the door she would promptly fall in, give me a dirty look, then forgive me and wiggle as if a long lost friend had just come home.

I knew she was my shadow. I acknowledged this to all who came to our house. I never raised my voice to her or found fault with this habit of tailing me from room to room. I know I appreciated this great gift of love we shared.

She was there when we lost one, then another. She was there when we put them in their special places to rest. She is now there with them. There are times when one feels that life is not fair. When loved ones leave us all too soon and we feel there should have been so much time yet with them. That may be so; but we should always, always remember to be thankful every day for what we do have. For the time we have with our four legged friends. Be thankful and acknowledge that thanks by caring for these friends in the best possible way, and the feeling of fullness will come to you after they are gone. The loss will always be there. But eventually you will realize that the years spent with them were not wasted years, but joyous ones.

I know she is not "here" anymore. My shadow **has** faded away. And yet, there is part of her here in her son. I look into his young eyes at times and see her. Sometimes I open the bathroom door and he falls in. Little by little, he is starting to follow my heels. I tend to think it's more of him hoping for another treat or hand-out, but there are times when he is tagging close to me because he wants to. Or maybe, it's some unconscious calling that was bred into his soul that puts him there.

Either way, by wanting or being willed to, I have a shadow growing once again. She lives on in him, and again, I am thankful to her for her gift of love.

"Bonni Jean"

12-26-91 8-24-97

Silver Reef Sweetwater Bonni Am/Can CD,CGC

TRIAL REPORT

Well, our 46th Obedience Trial has come to a conclusion. A huge thank you goes to all who volunteered their services and expertise in any way to the trial this year. Of course, we recognize those who took on the responsibility as a committee head - Carolyn Pearson, Ed Herdes, Bill Clarke, Susan Yee, Mike Kovacevich, Jean Airey, Helen Castellano, Sally Compton and Bev Nicholson. There are also some individuals who were not acknowledged previously to the membership, but who were great assets prior to and the day of the trial:

* Linda Benson, who stepped in and handled the ring folders, making sure that all the paperwork needed was available.

* Georgia Fiorito, who originally volunteered for the enormous task of ironing all the tablecloths and trophy skirt but also ended up organizing a very successful raffle.

* Penny Legner, who not only was on hand at the end of the trial to pay bills but volunteered to work all day sitting at the front table. She recorded specific numbers on catalog sales and general admission so that we may make better decisions for next year.

Thanks to the members who came to proof the catalog on that awful Sunday night, October 26 - Ronnie Bizer, Cindy Pakenas, Cheryl Lewis - an extra thank you to Cindy and Cheryl who both agreed to come when asked at the last minute. The trial committee also had extra help the night before the trial and after the trial ended. A big thank you to Ingrid Hamburger, Mary Bradley, Judy Anderson, Drew Graham, Georgia Fiorito, Cheryl Lewis, Lynn Kullman and Ryan Kullman. On Saturday, Carolyn Pearson, stepped up to bat and went above and beyond the call of duty. She was advised that Ed Haas, our Utility B judge, would not be able to judge Sunday's trial due to a death in the family. Thanks to Carolyn's quick action, we were able to procure the services of Dianne Allen and prepare the required notices. Thank you to all the stewards for being at the trial on time and for representing Fox Valley Dog Training Club in a truly respectful manner, and thanks to the kitchen crew and Sally's crew in the scoring room. Also thank you to those who donated to the trophy fund, especially our non-training lifetime members who continue to generously support the club each year. If I have missed anyone who volunteered any amount of time and energy to help the club, I sincerely apologize.

All classes were full except for one withdrawal from Utility B the day of the trial. Judging started at 8 a.m. and the last class finished at 3:15 p.m. Congratulations to our own club member Bridget Carlson, who won High in Trial with her Golden Retriever - Hammer, with a score of 199++, and who also won High Combined with a score of 394. Bridget and Hammer also won 5 other special awards. Second High in Trial also had a score of 199; the winner was a Novice B dog, golden retriever - Tanbark Blaze 'N Boots, owned by Sandra Ladwig from Juneau, Wisconsin. Congratulations to all the winners of the special awards.

Again, thanks to all who helped the trial run smoothly.

Sincerely,

Taffy Wille
Trial Secretary

Dear Fox Valley Members,

I would like to thank all of you who volunteered to work at our trial on Sunday, November 09. All of our classes were filled, and thanks to all of you, each ring ran very smoothly. All of the judges' comments about the stewards were very complimentary. The kitchen crew once again served very tasty food after surviving a nasty tie-rod incident. Thank you also to all of the workers who compiled the statistics for the awards presentation. The Awards' Table looked great, and their presentation at day's end went very smoothly. The grounds were continually policed and hospitality was spread around to all who required it. I appreciated the help of all who helped to take down and clean up at the end of the trial. Many of the people who helped had been at the show site all day long. Thank you to all of you who donated awards and items for the raffle.

We had over 100 people come through the door just to observe. They were pleased and impressed with what they saw. The vendors are already looking forward to next year. The AKC Representative was also congratulatory to us on the way we were organized and the smooth way the trial ran.

I would like to extend a special thank you to Taffy Wille, Trial Secretary. Her dedicated service made this trial the success that it was. Taffy worked extremely hard to make sure that everything ran smoothly, and she helped where ever possible to make my job easier.

Thank you again to all who helped to make our 1997 Fox Valley Trial a huge success. I look forward to serving as your Trial Chairman in 1998.

Very truly yours,

William Short
Trial Chairman

Comments concerning the Letter to the Board and Mr. O'Brien's letter.

I want to address many of the items which were published in the last issue of WT.

Regarding the letter to the Board of Directors

I am continually amazed that so much credence is given to a non sanctioned questionnaire concerning the question of awards and eligibility. I do not consider the number of returns to be especially high. We have 170 listings in our roster book. Many of these are families. Sixty-five is not a very representative sample. In addition the Board did not sanction the mailing of this document. There is a Board policy that each chairperson can spend up to \$50.00 without special approval; this questionnaire surpassed that cost and the question was never brought to the Board for its approval. I also find it quite interesting that several of the names of those demanding Board action either don't train dogs or don't come to the club very frequently. There are two whose names appear who were asked to sign without any explanation given as to the purpose of the document. They were told in essence that what they were doing was in the best interests of the club. At the September meeting guidelines were carefully explained to the members present. These guidelines had overwhelming Board approval; it's too bad that the Board wasn't able to stand together on this issue regardless of personal bias. Everything that Cindy Pakenas presented was in order. The purpose of the meeting was to come to a consensus, not to take a vote. This process was to last 30 minutes; if no consensus, then the matter would continue to the next meeting. We would keep meeting until the time a consensus could be reached. This would be something that all could live with. That did not happen. A vote was orchestrated and the process was pushed aside. Is there some reason that some individuals fear the process whereby all members come to consensus on this thorny issue? I was accused at the Board meeting of not wanting this to happen--I guess that would appear to be a moot point. I trust the members to do the correct thing and not turn awards requirements into a personal vendetta. I continue to wonder how this became such a divisive issue for our club. Why is it that we cannot be satisfied that someone pays the dues, attends the required number of meetings, works for the club, and promotes Fox Valley Dog Training Club? If someone chooses not to do so, or cannot train at the club regularly, why should that be anybody's business?

Regarding Mr. O'Brien's Letter

I did not realize that being a minority was an especially bad thing to be. Then I also did not realize that if you were a minority and vocal that must really be something bad. I always thought that in a democracy the rights of the minority were protected. In a democracy everyone has a right to speak and be heard.

Non-members are allowed to use our empty rings on match night. Non-members can also pre-register for our fun matches. A non-member does bring a relative to our building to train; he pays a training fee and will probably become a member soon. Is there a valid reason why we should not be extending some good will all in the name of dog obedience? I think that it is a good thing for the club to have many people from other clubs come to our fun matches. It's revenue. It builds the treasury.

Just who are these greedy few who take, take, take? I'd like to know their names. Do they attend meetings, work for the club, and promote Fox Valley? If the answer is no, then this should have been a non-issue. If the answer is yes, what is the point?

The Club's treasury is not the gloom and doom that some people would have us believe. Take a look around on the next training night. All of the rings are full. That's great—that's revenue—that's money in the treasury. We aren't going to go broke.

How many times, Mr. O'Brien, did we have to sit at a meeting and listen to you offer you opinions on an issue when you occupied the Chair? That was incorrect procedure. The classic example that comes to mind was the issue of Canadian awards. You had a right to your opinions, but you should have relinquished the chair and then waited to be recognized to offer your opinions.

The fact that Drew Graham voted as the Chair is also a non issue—there were no dissenting votes.

The vote that was taken in September was out of order. It should not have taken place. The whole idea was to reach consensus. Some people did not want to let this happen and therefore put forth a motion for members to vote upon. I could not stay at that meeting any longer due to the next day's job requirements. I like to be somewhat rested when I face my class of sixth graders. I left because the 30 minutes had passed. I left because the discussion was to continue until next month as per the outlined procedure. I left because I had confidence in the procedure. I and many of my fellow members were let down by that vote.

I would like to address the way Glenbard does their awards. I do not care how they address their awards; I do not belong to that training club. This is a Fox Valley issue. Let's deal with it.

Carolyn Pearson has been heading up the annual nominating committee for several years under different presidents. How come all of the sudden there is a problem? Just curious.

This year's trial was a limited entry trial. As Trial Chairman I discussed this with the Board and brought it to the general membership. I do not recall any problem. Our trial filled. We hired five judges, Car Dun Al hired six and had the same number of entries. We did not turn away enough entries to have justified another judge or more rings. Obedience numbers are down all over the country. Is there some reason we at FVDTC should be immune from this phenomenon? Didn't you, Mr. O'Brien, in May 1996 suggest that a modified unlimited trial be held and no vote was taken at that time?

As Trial Chairman I had several occasions to speak with the Trial Chair from CarDunAl. She and I formed a good working relationship and, I hope, one that will restore the good will we enjoyed with them in year's past.

I feel that our requirements should be: pay your dues, attend the meetings, fulfill your job requirements, promote FVDTC in ways that you are able, and be eligible for awards.

For all of the above reasons I, too, am looking forward to the elections in January. Our Club's future depends upon the outcome.

William Short

I wasn't going to get involved in this flurry of opinion exchange, since I personally like some of the people involved. However, there are some points about my committee and board position that I cannot let go unchallenged.

Regarding the awards survey:

1. A survey does not have to be sanctioned. In fact, two previous awards committees sent out surveys. They were not sanctioned.
2. I can't find anything in the bylaws about the \$50. approval. Does this mean any Waggin' Tale issue that costs more than \$50 to mail must get board approval? Or is it just certain contents? Then who decides what needs approval? All the letters in this issue made the mailing cost of this issue go way over what the survey issue cost.
3. I did talk to 2 board members about mailing the survey (I also mentioned the fact that there would be a survey in several meetings before it went out). The survey would have cost one stamp to mail alone, which would add up to about \$55. - if none were picked up at training. By sending it with the Waggin' Tales it actually cost less than that because after one ounce, postage is determined in fractions of an ounce. Those two board members agreed this was the way to go.
4. In the results of the survey I explained in great detail just who returned the survey and who didn't. I won't go over it again but if you do the math, there were only about 8 training members who did not return the survey. In fact, all but a couple of the board members returned the survey. What was it that changed minds about the survey after the results were presented?

Regarding the petition in October's Waggin' Tales:

1. I did hear that several members who signed the petition published in Waggin' Tales were approached and an explanation for their signature was demanded. I think the purpose of the petition was pretty clearly stated on it. I don't know if those two individuals who didn't know what it was about actually signed it or not. The people I saw sign it did read it first. One member who was approached thought it WAS for the good of the club.
2. Regarding who signed it, is there some implication that some member's opinions or votes are more important than other members? The other petition was not made public, but I would suspect that there are a few names on there that belong to members who are never seen at training except at matches. Perhaps more than two. Do we call them less important too? Is there some implication that only the first petition was for 'the good of the club'? Who decides that?

Regarding voting, consensus & the By-Laws and the Treasury

1. The September vote was NOT unanimous. I believe that was when the president voted.
2. The October vote was to continue discussion about the September vote, not to throw it out. During the October meeting a motion was made to throw out the September vote. Another member pointed out that you cannot just throw out a motion that passed or re-vote on a motion that has already passed. There are rules for this. We have bylaws and Roberts Rules of Order for a reason.
3. Our bylaws say that the nominating committee has to be appointed by the board. Just because this may not have been done in the past does not mean we can continue to do so. Is it ok not to follow the rules - as long as no one objects?
4. I don't know what the current nominating committee plans to do, but certainly there could be no accusations if the nominating committee had been selected at random from all volunteers and all candidates wishing to run for an office be placed on the ballot. This has not been the case in recent years.
5. The board could not reach a consensus on the 'consensus method' (and there were only 10 board members) so they voted. The original slip Cindy handed out at the board meeting said, at the end, that several definitions would be voted on. Read it again. This was the sticking point for the board, whether to call for a vote at the end of the process. The board can make suggestions to the members but cannot demand that the members accept them. Is a board member's opinion more important than a non-board member's opinion? When any minority tries to control a majority, it's called a dictatorship. Aren't we a democracy?
6. The members have every right to make any motion they wish & call for a vote. A member made a motion to vote. Why won't the board set aside their personal views & stand by what the overwhelming number of members who voted in September wanted?
7. "Must train at the club" has always been a requirement for awards. (Look at past years award packages under requirements) This policy was dropped without membership approval. The members have a right to vote on policy changes. They were not notified.
8. The bylaws state we have both training and non-training members.
9. Consensus works when there is some common ground and room for compromise. What is the common ground in "never has to train at the club" and "has to train at the club (regardless of the number)"? If some members are so sure a consensus can be reached, then re-instate "must train at the club" until a change in policy can be reached by consensus.
10. I don't think anyone's opinion on how much money we have carries any weight, unless they are the treasurer. We haven't heard from her. In the treasurer's report published in the June 1997 Waggin' Tales, we lost \$5,818. in 1996.
11. In September 1996 the treasurer reported that at our current rate, (of spending and income) assuming no large purchases, like equipment, the club would be bankrupt in 11 years. That means every year we are cashing in on some of our savings.

Regarding Waggin' Tales:

There have been some veiled accusations that I edit letters I receive. For the record, I have NEVER edited the contents of any letter. If anyone has evidence of this, please bring it up in an open meeting, so I know who you are. I don't even correct spelling or grammar (unless asked) which is apparent in this issue. I do edit format to make things fit - as editor that's my job. One letter I got for this issue via e-mail had only two words per line. Should I have left it that way? I also have the right to respond to any letter, just as so many members expressed their opinions in this issue. Being editor does not mean I have to forfeit that right. - Kay Weber

This is in response to the letter written by Wally O'Brien and printed in the October issue of Waggin Tales.

I very much object to much of what Mr. O'Brien wrote and feel his letter is filled with innuendo and misinformation.

Regarding non-members, I do agree that non-members should not use the rings before a match. This time has to be reserved for judges, stewards and the Beginner Class instructors to enable them to train their own dogs before the match begins.

The Match Committee approached the Board early in the year with the concept of allowing non-members to pre-enter our matches. This is something that Glenbard has also been utilizing for their matches with much success. We did this for a variety of reasons. 1) to allow the table stewards to maintain a modicum of sanity as they worked frantically in some matches to enter people at the gate, 2) to boost the entry (many people did not want to drive all the way out to FVDTC if they were not sure of getting a slot) 3) to do a little positive PR work. Over the past few years FVDTC has been steadily losing the good will and positive response from the obedience community. If Mr. O'Brien had ever spent one match night working the main table he would understand the need to ease the burden on all concerned.

Suzan Scott has done a spectacular job working pre-entries and trying to avoid, wherever possible, conflicts which causes the frustration of stewards, judges and exhibitors. Ideally, FVDTC members get priority placement in the match - it is rare that they do not where it is practical. It is asinine to schedule a person who teaches at 7:00 in the first group of ten dogs...they can't be there...they would have to be passed by and then gone back to. Equally, someone who cannot arrive at FVDTC before 8:00 p.m. would also not be served by scheduling them early. Those of us who work the matches need all the help, good will and cooperation we can get. If Mr. O'Brien is so dissatisfied with the way matches are run, than I invite him to take over and do the 1998 Matches.

If Mr. O'Brien knows of someone who is training a student in a FVDTC ring for a fee, than concrete proof that this is being done should be brought to the attention of the Board for appropriate action.

Recently Mr. O'Brien approached a Board Member and asked that they "muzzle" me because I had been very unfair to a non-member who was using our facilities early in the evening. When Mr. O'Brien was D.O.T. he asked that all instructors take guest training fees, and he also said that only members could use the utility rings. I asked for and received (and receipted) a training fee from this person, and I also reminded her that as a non-member she was not entitled to use the utility rings. Just following orders...guess it depends on who the non-member is! Mr. O'Brien has now accused me, and the other people who signed the petition complaining about the way in which the published consensus vote was handled. This was not politically motivated, it was done purely to make our point that procedures, as published, were not followed. Subsequently, the membership at the October meeting voted (in the majority) to set aside the previous vote and to work on it again at another meeting. In case anyone needs a definition of what "consensus" means, according to Funk & Wagnalls consensus is defined as "a collective opinion, general agreement". Anyone who attended the September meeting has to be aware that this was not a "collective" opinion, nor was there a "general agreement"...it was, however, exactly what it was not suppose to be "a few loud voices overwhelming the opinions of those who dared to want a modification, or did not agree".

I very much resent being called "greedy". I started guest training in the fall of 1986....paid \$4.00 per dog per evening I guest trained, and then required 10 times (\$80.00)....stewarded at the Trial in 1986 despite the fact that I was not a member, joined in January of 1987, and from the fall of 1988 till the present have taught the beginning open class. I have worked every trial in one capacity or another every year since 1986. I have worked at a variety of jobs on a variety of committees. I have, except for one year (1996...the year of the flood) made a trophy donation. And, being the greedy, self-serving person that I am....I have greedily taken from the club the following awards: one AKC CDX, one AKC Championship plaque, two Canadian CDs....how selfish can I get?!

I am also so tired of hearing how FVDTC has "no money". If FVDTC made no attempt to earn income, we could still maintain ourselves for a number of years. BUT, under the expert leadership of our D.O.T. Cheryl Lewis and the efforts of a concerned and often maligned Board led by President Drew Graham, we are earning money. Cheryl has been one of the best D.O.T.s we have had in years. She has worked tirelessly to obtain the help of a good group of people who teach and assist in the variety of classes we offer. Their efforts to volunteer have not been ignored, but have been encouraged and responded to. We now have, on a regular basis, three, not one, or two, or none that has been the case in the past beginner classes, plus from one to two puppy classes. Cheryl's people and PR skills are fantastic...I have not always agreed with her every decision, but son of a gun, she's made a believer out of me, when a perceived "tragedy" has developed into a big "nothing" in spite of my original misgivings. Cheryl always is there for us, she always listens and she always responds. She does not "schmooze" us or placate us, or tell us what we want to hear (and then do it her way). We are now well on our way to financial stability. And to pat my match committee on our mutual backs...the matches are also becoming very financially satisfying...in October we had a profit of over \$450.00!

I work at a child care center, and it has long been understood that if you continually tell a child that he is "stupid" or "lazy" or "bad" he has nothing to aspire to...he will fulfill your prophecy. Instead of tearing away at the club, isn't it time we stopped politicizing every aspect of FVDTC and get on with the business of enjoying our dogs, enjoying our mutual love of our sport and, at a bare minimum, tolerating our differences for the good of the club. These "witch hunts" need to stop...many of us are getting sick and tired of all the back-stabbing and petty bickering. These continued attacks, complaints and tearing away at the very fabric of our club will lead to the eventual downfall of the club. I too, am looking forward to the January Meeting and Elections....what road I take in regard to my involvement with FVDTC will depend, in great part, to the outcome of the elections to come. Think before you vote, are we as bad off as Mr. O'Brien portends? Do we have ongoing, successful classes? Do we have a capable, willing and supportive teaching staff? Are we having successful monthly matches? Are we fulfilling our goal of teaching obedience to dogs and helping members, who wish to earn obedience titles? Have we not recently held a most successful and well run Trial? Isn't it time we stopped the nonsense and got on with the business of training our dogs? Sincerely, Linda Benson

To the FVDTC membership:

Well folks, I thought I could leave for vacation and ignore many of the comments made by Mr. O'Brien in his letter to the membership in the October issue of Waggin' Tales; but, the more I thought about it the more annoyed I became to here I am writing this letter instead of packing.

First, Mr. O'Brien state that at the October match "in many of the rings about the first ten people in the rings were non-members". Not remembering having scheduled them this way, I went back and looked at all of the stewards' sheets from the October, September and August matches. I did find one class, Novice A in October, in which the first ten entries were non-members; but, then again so were the rest of the entries in that class. Sure was nice of all those non-members to enter or we wouldn't have had anyone in the class. When the 1997 Match Committee recommended that pre-entries for matches be taken from non-members the intent was to (1) increase the revenue for the club by hopefully getting more entries for the matches and (2) to eliminate much of the confusion at the gate on the night of the match. I believe we've come a long way in attaining these goals but, due to scheduling constraints, this does mean there will probably continue to be non-members in some of the rings ahead of members. If there are members out there who believe that they could more effectively run the matches and benefit the club, please step forward because the members of the 1997 Match Committee would be happy to spend the time with their dogs that is currently being occupied co-ordinating the matches.

Second - the issue of awards. I may be nieve, but somehow, I can't believe that any member of FVDTC is so financially illiterate as to believe that whatever they are getting as awards could even come close to compensating them for the time, effort and money that it takes to put a title on a dog, pay dues to the club and meet all of the other requirements for the awards. If our members were that greedy, they would be farther ahead to go out and buy the awards and forget the rest. Speaking only for myself, I have lost track of what I have invested in the club this year doing pre-entries for the matches, stewarding and working the table at the matches and the trial, and donating trophies, raffle items, etc. But, with three dogs, I must be expecting to take home a bunch of awards for this year, right? Well, lets see. We have one U-CDX, two MX's, one AX, one U_ACHX and a few NADAC titles. I don't know what this years' awards are going to be but in years past this would have added up to maybe five certificates. These certificates must really be valuable.

Third - the definition of a training member. I have heard so much about this issue that I no longer care if we have members who receive awards who pay their dues as training members and who meet all of the work and meeting requirements for the awards but who for one reason or another can't be physically in the building with their dogs on training nights. If each member of FVDTC would spend as much time training their dogs as we have collectively spent thinking about, writing about, arguing about and whining about this single issue, we would all have OTCH dogs and would be taking home more awards than our greedy little hands could carry.

One last thing just FYI before anyone accuses the Match Committee of covertly conspiring to eliminate any more member benefits. We have sent a letter to the board recommending that FVDTC not hold an AKC sanctioned match in 1998 and have further recommended that the sanctioned match be replaced with a correction match which would allow other types of training in the building on the same night. The justification for this is that the entries at the Sanctioned Match have been extremely low (a total of 18 this year). The anticipated increase in entries for a correction match along with other training in the building would offset more of the cost of renting the building for that night. If anyone is vehemently opposed to this recommendation, please let the board members know.

OK, enough said. I'm now going to climb aboard the big silver bird and head south (don't worry, the dogs get to spend the week with my mother) and when I return, I'm going to spend more time training and having fun with my dogs since when you consider the relatively short time that each of them is with us, all of the rest of this petty bickering seems pretty inconsequential.

Suzan Scott

Dear Editor/Fox Valley Membership

This is in response to the letter of Mr. Walley O'Brien which was published in the October issue of Waggin Tales. Upon reading Mr. O'Brien's letter to the membership I was offended not only by what he had to say but the manner in which it was presented. Our club's news letter should not be used to make personal attacks on fellow members whether they are named directly or through unmistakable inference.

I have been a club member for nine years and have enjoyed my day in the limelight with two out of the three I currently own. I have over the course of 9 years also enjoyed seeing the new faces of club members as they step up to the awards table and have applauded their success. I firmly disagree that the awards are given to a select few who only ! TAKE TAKE TAKE ! Awards are given on the basis of accomplishment and contribution to the club. To continually raise the bar to obtaining awards by creating increasing requirements will result in an even smaller group of people taking than what MR. O'Brien already exists. The proposed requirements of training at the club is a physical impossibility for me due to the fact that I must work rotating and double shifts. I have found it to be impossible to find available Utility Ring Time during the time frame when I would be able to make it at the club on those rare occasions.

I also do not feel that I need to be a "Training" member in order to be considered a "contributing" member worthy of an award. I have consistently offered my time to judge steward and clean up after matches and shows. I took my shot at being president of the club and presumably am one of those responsible for the direction that the club has taken. I have repeatedly offered to assist the club with any request never expecting or asking for thanks or extra credit.

Finally with respect to Mr. O'Brien's attack on "the member who left the meeting before the vote" perhaps Mr. O'Brien would consider the fact that some of our members work long hours and can only afford a few hours at best to devote to our meetings. Wouldn't it be better to appreciate the time that they do give to the club rather than attack them personally for what you alone perceive as shortcoming.

I am proud to be a member of this club. I don't normally write letters of this sort and consider Mr. O'Brien's letter an avenue that should not have been taken. May I remind Mr. O'Brien that if he is truly concerned with the direction that this club is taking remember the old saying the door swings both ways. Instead of attacking the "TAKE TAKE TAKE" people with letters of your sort. Do something constructive. Your letter Mr. O'Brien in my eyes was a definitely an N Q!!!!!!!!!!

Sincerely Terry Whelan

From the D.O.T:

This note is to congratulate the FVDTC members on a job well done. What job, you ask? Take a look around at the club the next time you come in. We have so many hard working members volunteering their time and other resources and it is all paying off! This last session of classes we actually have 4 beginners classes and 2 puppy classes. I cannot fit in anything more between 7:00 and 9:00 p.m. We all miss having the extra rings but everyone has been very supportive of our program. Do you know that we have no less than 24 people volunteering their time to teach on Thursday nights?! We have so many people that love this sport and want others to have a chance to love it too. Thank you! If anyone would like to volunteer, even just for one class, for 10 weeks in any level of classes, please let me know. We can always use the help.

In the meeting minutes published in this news letter you will find that I indicated the 7:00 Novice ring-ready class and the 7:00 Advanced beginner classes were to be merged so that part of the class time can be spent doing run-throughs for novice work. This came up because one of the original instructors indicated they would be traveling a lot more and would need coverage for the class. Turns out that the travel schedule is not going to be as much of a problem as first thought. So, the new instructors discussed this change and decided to leave the classes as they are currently. For anyone who was looking for a novice run-through, we might be able to look at adding something at either 6:00 or 9:00. If anyone is interested, please let me know and I can see if we can arrange something for you. Also, don't forget Mary is running a 7:00 beginning utility class now, too.

Happy training,
Cheryl

To the members of Fox Valley Dog Training Club

I would to say to the trial committee, congratulations and a job well done! Ifelt that everything went very smoothly. Also a big THANK YOU to everyone whoworked, you have proved to me once more what special people belong to this club and how everybody was able to pull together. A big apology to the stewarts who worked right through we will make sure that won't happen again!

I would also like to say thank you to everyone that has worked through out the year, including a very hard working board, who were able to accomplish a great deal in one year! The next issue I want to discuss was the letter that was written by Wally O'Brien. I feel that Wally really loves to be part of this club and I know that his letter was written with a lot of emotion involved. The things that were discussed in the letter, may I remind you, were one member's point of view and not totally factual. If you would like to discuss any part of, or all of it I would be willing to address it.
Drew Graham President

Letter to the Membership:

I wish to address the membership regarding last months Waggin' Tales, specifically Mr. O'Brien's letter to the membership. I was deeply hurt after reading this letter because many of the statements made misrepresented the facts, particularly the comments made regarding non-members training at the club. Mr. O'Brien stated,

"... Also as a non-member, I can bring students to the club, teach them there and charge them for their training and not pay anything to FVDTC. Gee, why be a member?"

Mr. O'Brien is fully aware that a report was made to me at the beginning of this year regarding a suspicion that this was happening. I investigated and found this was not actually the case. We were mistaken. It turns out it was a guest trainer being run through by another family member who also trains dogs. Through that investigation, even though we didn't find anything amiss, we added some clarity to our club's training policy. We stated for the record that we do not allow a "trainer" to put through "students" using FVDTC facilities and get paid for it. I guess I just do not understand why it was brought up again unless there has been another occurrence that I am not aware of. If Mr. O'Brien knows of another case why has it not been brought to my attention as Director of Training?

Another statement: "Let's see, as a non-member I can use the rings before our matches".

I was really floored to see this one when it was Mr. O'Brien himself that came to me to complain when a non-member was asked to leave a utility ring before a match so that one of the judges of that match could have some practice time. The very next month, Mr. O'Brien approached me again when that same non-member was using one of the other rings and they were charged a guest training fee since they were using that ring to train. I do not understand why he would make this an issue when he requested same leniency regarding this specific non-member. Because of these occurrences I have done some digging in past club meeting notes regarding match night training policy. Meeting notes dating back to 1993, when Mr. O'Brien was D.O.T., indicate that the use of the rings before a match begins would be limited to judges and stewards for that match. As far as I know, that policy is still in effect.

I will say that as D.O.T. I have made two noted exceptions to the past policies given to me regarding non-members.

1. Regarding the "no utility" policy for non-members. At the beginning of this year, Thursday nights were very slow. Members were taking a break after the Christmas show season and many of the advanced rings were left empty. Mary Bradley has been a wonderful main-stay for the club, coming and doing utility run-throughs almost every training night. I gave her permission to put through non-training members if and when she finds the time to fit them in. These same non-members are still not allowed to train in the free utility ring. If I am made aware of a non-member using the free utility ring I do talk to them and restate the club's policy in this matter.
2. For years it has been understood that before 7:00 the rings were available primarily for the instructors and assistants and, in the summer, the 4H'ers, though any member can use the rings if they are not otherwise in use. If a non-member comes and pays guest training fees and there is an available ring, I invite them to use the rings. Mr. O'Brien himself does run-throughs for one or two non-members before 7:00. I have no problems with this as long as the instructors and members have the first priority and the non-member pays the guest training fees. Part of the reason I made these exceptions was because the club gets a good income from guest training.

I do hope this at least clarifies some of the club policies brought up by Mr. O'Brien in his letter.

Cheryl Lewis
Director of Training, FVDTC

RONNIE BIZER

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 Maple Park, Illinois 60151
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Letter to the Membership of Fox Valley Dog Training Club;

This letter is in response to Wally O'Brien's letter to the membership found in the October, 1997, issue of Waggin' Tales. I have been told by many of my friends at Fox Valley that many of his comments were aimed at me. I would appreciate having names stated instead of innuendoes that can be denied later.

Mr. O'Brien I must say that you are a cynic. For I do firmly believe that there is altruism in my world and I am happy that I can experience it from both sides. Many people I know and don't know have done, are doing, and will do nice things for me without ever thinking of being repaid. I hope that in some small way I can repay their kindnesses by also doing good and nice things for people without the NEED for repayment.

I believe a little personal history is due here for those who do not know me. My husband, Dr. John Bizer, moved our family to the flatlands in the fall of 1986. While we were waiting to move into our new home we visited Fox Valley and were greeted warmly. Of course we could start teaching immediately, so the normal waiting period was waived to enable us both to start teaching for the club. Never have I regretted one Thursday evening spent at the club training and teaching. We were there just about every Thursday night until June of 1992. At that time, my husband decided to be single and I was now a single mom supporting a son and new business, Kanosak Canine Training, Inc. in Maple Park. I had to resign my teaching position because I work a swing and split shift. In other words, every time I would cancel lessons to attend a Fox Valley event I would be taking between \$100.00 and \$150.00 from revenues used to pay the mortgage, put food on my son's plate, and clothes on our backs. Obviously, I would find it impossible to donate any more of my time to the club during those hours than I currently do. In the past few years I have been able to be Trial Chairperson, Chief Ring Steward, Awards' Committee Chairperson for two years, and when I judge, I don't take the money. However, if the club ever had a building, that would open the possibilities of volunteering during the afternoon when I am "free". This year I have also had the pleasure of hosting the Fox Valley picnic, attending 2 trainers' meetings held on Saturday, and an informal social hour of fun and doggy talk at Rick Cox's home. Why do I do these things? Because I choose to do them, NOT to take from the club, but to give to the club. I am aware that my financial giving to the club is not direct, but I don't know of many who give as much. I'm not trying to toot my horn, but just let it be known that Fox Valley is important to me and I will continue to put my energies where they can best help the club, by setting an example of sportsmanship and willingness to pitch in where I can.

The second point I would like address is the club's financial outlook. It is not gloom and doom folks. There are a lot of people who would never let that happen, who care for the club and don't need this as a rallying cry. Cheryl Lewis has done a fine job of DOT this year, and because of her leadership, we now have full classes at all hours and could even do more. Jean Airey has done a great job of advertising the classes also. The list of those who have decided that this was the year to do more, not less could go on and on. I congratulate them all.

As for the definition of training member, I look forward to its final definition. I did not attend either of the two meetings where it was discussed, and do not pretend to understand any of what I've been told. What I do believe is that this measure should be decided after the vote for new officers in January, because it will be this board's duty to carry out the wishes of the club. Whichever way the vote is taken I will abide by the club's decision as we all will.

By the way, I am very proud of the awards that Fox Valley has given me. When I wear my shirts to shows, when people come in my home and see those beautiful pictures, I am pleased to tell them that the obedience club I belong to, Fox Valley, awarded them to me. The usual comment is "What a great club", and you know something? They're right!



To F.V.D.T.C.

from Cathy Fleury

I would like to acknowledge the hard work and dedication that I have seen in our current officers and other committees. It must be hard for them to listen to all the bickering going on all the time. These people have volunteered their time to the club. Thank you for your hard work. Most of us would agree that one of the reasons we are a member of F.V.D.T.C. is for the camaraderie of people with the same likes and interests. Not "that some people are greedy and abusing the awards. Take, take, take," as Wally stated in his letter to the membership published in the October 1997 Waggin' Tales.

In looking back at my earlier roosters, the terms "Training & Non-training" did not appear until last year. In rebuttal of Wally's remark: "If you can't train, or don't want to train at FVDTC, why do you want to be a member?" . Well Wally I have a question for your question. Why are Non-training Members members than? It puzzles me that there are people in this club including Wally who have forgotten that it takes a considerable amount of training to obtain each title. How often do you work your dog(s)? I can tell you that my goals are higher and lower than other club members. I don't consider this to be a "greedy act and abusing the awards." The awards are given to those who work for them, they are not taking anything! F.V.D.T.C. Special Awards are just that, SPECIAL! If you wish to obtain this award you need to set your goal for it, not say that someone else took it. Remember they worked for it.

To me the Awards and Awards Banquet are to acknowledge and celebrate with our friends and fellow club members the accomplishments for the year. Not to discredit them. Let's face it folks, some people put higher standards on themselves and are more competitive. But to do this it takes work. Marietta and Squiggles would not have had the honor of being a member of the United States Agility team if they hadn't worked for it. Some of us work harder breeds than others. You might as well say "let's ban all Border Collies, Shetties, Golden, etc. from receiving awards. They're too easy to train." I don't think so!

Wally have you looked at the treasury lately yourself. I haven't, but by the looks of Training night and the number of General Public classes we have going we must be doing better than in previous deficit years. I think this should be praised! If this keeps up we could have a realistic view of someday having a permanent building of our own. We would be able to offer more classes, including agility, fly-ball, off-time training and classes for people who work evenings. We may even be able to give awards for members who obtain titles other than obedience or who obtain titles from organizations other than AKC. I don't think that spending the \$2,000.00 to \$3,000.00 a year in awards is that big of a deal to this size of a club if we continue on our current path of classes we offer to the public.

There is another point. All club members don't have 9 to 5 jobs, or they have families to tend to. Not every club member can give equally the amount of time for the club to run. But isn't it enough that you help and give of your time when you can and to meet the requirements of work credits and meetings. There are always exceptions to rules. How many of us are willing to give up a days pay to participate or work for the club? Sorry, but it's not in my budget. I think it's great that some people have more time to devote to the club and their dogs. But we must remember that not everyone does. Do we exclude these members from being a member of this club or any club just because they may not be able to train at the same time the majority of us do.

Training 12 times may be unrealistic for some especially if you make the exclusion of Matches. How many of these members contribute to the club in other ways which may not be noticed by the general membership or are chosen to be overlooked by members wishing to exclude them.

On Wally's suggestion of only giving patches, if that's what it takes to appease some people, I say go ahead. It's won't matter to the people who are out there training their dogs for their particular titles. Receiving the patches, this is secondary. The achievement and the Official title from the organization in which the title was obtained is the reward. But, I can bet that you'll still have people complaining "so-in-so got more patches than I did!" The awards are the same for everyone who earns that particular title. "IF YOU WANT IT. EARN IT!"

In closing, I would like to say that I think there are a lot of good people in this club and we need to look past our differences and keep this club going in the direction that it has been going this past year. FORWARD.

Cathy Fleury

This letter is in response to the letter that was submitted by Wally O'Brien and published in the last Waggin' Tales.

I wish to specifically address the last couple of paragraphs in his letter regarding the current nominating committee. According to his letter "I also see that we now have a new nominating committee. Funny thing about this nominating committee. According to the club's constitution, the nominating committee must be voted on by the board. I don't know about anyone else, but I don't remember seeing anything the minutes of any of the broad meetings where a nominating committee was voted upon. I wasn't certain about this, so I have asked some of the board members. The board members that I've talked to don't remember this issue coming up. Anyone beside me smell something fish here?"

According to the meeting minutes for the past seven years, the members of the Nominating Committee have not been voted on by the board. Of those seven years no one (including those on the board) has questioned the validity of the nominating committee. Which is why I never considered the fact that the by-laws state that the Nominating Committee is to be "approved", we simply haven't done it that way in the years that I've been active in the club. I have been the nominating committee chairperson for at least five (maybe even six) of those seven years and have never been told that I was doing something "fishy" by volunteering for the position of nominating committee chairperson. In fact, during the first couple of years, I had to BEG people to give me a hand with the committee. This year, there were several club members who spoke to Board Members about volunteering to be on the committee. The club members on the current nominating committee were "selected" on a first come basis. Those members knew that the nominating committee would be forming at this time of year - that is general information, it happens every year at this time.

In conclusion, I would like to make it perfectly clear that what was done this year has been done in the past. As the Nominating Committee Chairperson, I guess in my mind, the only thing that I've done that is "fishy" is to give up a lot of my free time for the club. That is what a lot of good club members are doing - giving greatly of themselves striving for the success of the club in the long run!

Carolyn Pearson
Nominating Committee Chairperson

Waggin' Tales

Roster Additions, Changes:

1. BILL, JANICE & KATIE ALLEN
710 MATHER LANE
BATAVIA, IL. 60510
630-406-1524
2. NICHOLAS, TRNKA
528 PEEBLES CT.
BATAVIA, IL. 60510
630-406-4517
3. ANNE, MELLIGAN WEIRICH
1410 VERMONT RD.
WOODSTOCK, IL. 60098
815-338-3679
4. PAT WHITNEY
421 HARMONY DRIVE
NORTH AURORA, IL.
60542
630-892-9328
5. JOSEF ZEMAN
6N178 RIVERSIDE DRIVE
ST. CHARLES, IL.
60174
630-377-7018

APPLICATION NOT VOTED ON
AT THE LAST MEETING BUT
SHOULD HAVE BEEN EXCEPT
THAT CHERYL LEFT THE
APPLICATION AT HOME.

6. LORI AND BLAIR HOLL
1141 COCHRAN ST.
AURORA, IL. 60506
630-897-0820

STATUS CHANGES NOT IN THE
ROSTER ARE FOR:

1. JOYCE AND FRED
SCHARRINGHAUSEN TO ACTIVE
LIFETIME TRAINING MEMBER
2. NANCY AND STEVE
EINWICH TO ACTIVE LIFETIME
TRAINING MEMBER

This is an information sheet I obtained from Dr. Deborah Mitchell who practices Traditional, Accupuncture, Chiropractic and Holistic Veterinary Medicine. Her number is: 847-891-8944.

memo from Dr. Mitchell, to you

Over the past few years, more and more veterinarians have become concerned about over-vaccination in our pets. While there is no question that vaccinations have saved many lives, there is also no ignoring the growing numbers of pets experiencing severe vaccination reactions. I am not speaking of the minor and temporary "flu" symptoms and fever that often follow a vaccination. I'm talking about tumor formation, seizures, thyroid and kidney disease, complete immune system failure - even death. All of these serious problems have been documented in the veterinary medical literature, and the incidence of such problems is growing. Admittedly, the overall incidence is low, only a few individuals per thousand - but why should it have to happen to your pet?

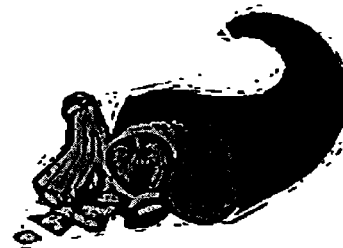
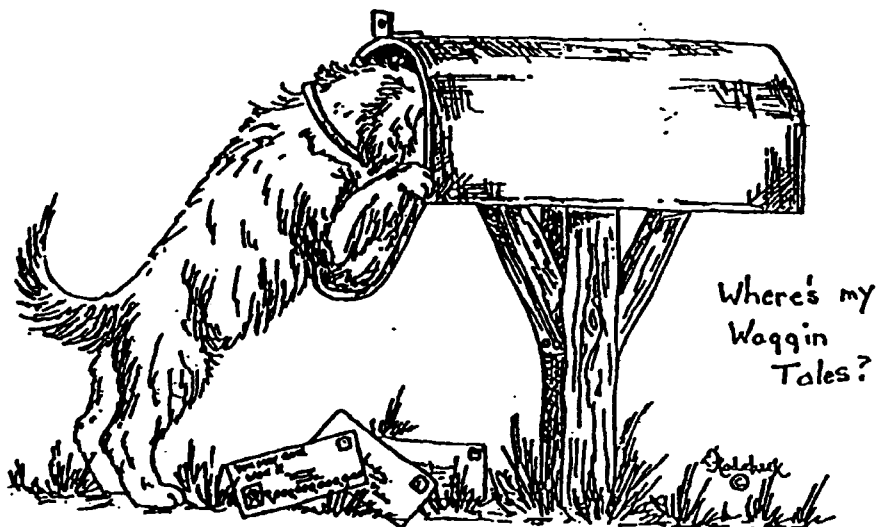
Based on the alarming increase in severe vaccination-related problems in pets, I am recommending that you think about making the following changes in your pet's future vaccination schedule:

1. Puppies: Booster, with a combination modified-live vaccine, at 8,12, and 16 weeks of age. Give a last parvo booster at 22 weeks of age (immunity to parvo will not develop much before 20-22 weeks of age in most pups). Rabies vaccine at 16 weeks of age.
2. Adult dogs: Depending on your pet's general health, diet, age, and environment, the adult distemper-parvo vaccine will last 1-4 years. The next time your pet is due for yearly vaccinations, consider having a distemper-parvo titer checked instead of re-vaccinating without knowing if your pet needs the vaccine. The titer is a simple blood test that can help avoid the harmful effects of over-vaccinating by letting us know if the last vaccine is still working. Continue rabies vaccines as required by law. We also recommend that you avoid vaccinating a female dog in or near her heat cycle.
3. Kittens: Booster, with a modified-live vaccine, at 8,12, and 16 weeks of age. Rabies vaccine at 16 weeks of age.
4. Adult cats: As for dogs, the booster vaccine may last some time and checking a titer is the best way to avoid serious health problems later in life. Rabies vaccine is required by law. Avoid vaccinating female cats in or near their heat cycle.
5. Old or ill pets: It is particularly important to avoid vaccinating any pet with a medical problem, until that problem is 100% resolved. This includes acute illnesses such as vomiting, diarrhea, or even a mild case of the sniffles. It also includes pets with chronic medical problems, such as skin allergies; thyroid, heart, or other organ disease; and periodontal disease. We like to be careful about over-vaccinating old pets, too, because this practice can bring on serious illness weeks to months after the vaccine.

Remember.....

- Not all vaccines are necessary for all pets each year.
- A titer can tell us if the vaccine is necessary, and helps avoid harmful vaccine reactions.
- If your pet has any health problems, you need to be especially careful to avoid too many vaccinations too often.

Waggin' Tales
 Kay Weber
 34W922 Chillem
 Batavia, IL. 60510



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Important Dates to Remember:

- Nov. 25 **Training Change**
- Dec. 3 **Board Meeting**
- Dec. 15 **Waggin' Tales Deadline**
- Dec. 23 **Training Change**
- Dec. 30 **Training Change, Christmas Party**

