

# Fox Valley Dog Training Club

April 2010 Vol XIX Issue 3

David Lewis, Editor

www.fvdtc.org



## Waggin' Tales

### LASSIE'S NANNY TO SPEAK AT FVDTC

**L**assie's Nanny employs Jan Fennell's internationally renowned Amichien Bonding program to help you build a harmonic relationship with your dog. Jan Fennell is the original Dog Listener. Amichien Bonding provides a quick and easy way to identify problematic behavior and gives you tools – without confrontation or gadgets – that will help your dog be calm and relaxed.

**B**y making simple and effective changes in everyday home life, Amichien Bonding will eliminate most behavior problems, such as excessive barking, running the fence, pulling on the lead, destroying furniture, and aggression. Amichien Bonding is for all canines regardless of size, Maltese to Great Pyrenees, regardless of age, puppy to seniors. As long as you approach the Dog Listening method with an open mind and willingness to make simple modifications to your lifestyle, you can communicate with your dog in ways s/he will comprehend and that

will allow you to win the role of being your dog's best friend.

**P**amela Brown and Michael Mifflin studied under and successfully completed Jan Fennell's canine communication courses. They are recognized associate Dog Listeners in Jan Fennell International Dog Listeners, Ltd. They have used Amichien Bonding with their pack since 2002 providing a peaceful environment, where each pack member recognizes his or her responsibility and respects Pamela's and Michael's leadership.

**I**f you want to hear how Amichien Bonding has reduced anxiety and given a peaceful life to dogs who are shy, afraid of thunderstorms, and fear riding in the car, among other stories, join us on May 5<sup>th</sup> for the FVDTC Membership Meeting (7:00 at the Extension Center).

### CONGRATULATIONS TO FVDTC'S ANNUAL AWARD WINNERS

**NOVICE A - HIGH QUALIFYING AVERAGE AWARD**  
*not awarded*

**NOVICE B - HIGH QUALIFYING AVERAGE AWARD**  
*Cathy Fleury & Seeker, 197.66*

**OPEN - HIGH QUALIFYING AVERAGE AWARD** –  
*Brenda Rivera & Pilot, 198.08*

**UTILITY - HIGH QUALIFYING AVERAGE AWARD** –  
*Brenda Rivera & Pilot, 196.67*

**DOROTHY DIMOND MEMORIAL TROPHY** - awarded to the member whose dog was trained and shown by the member and receives the highest average score in regular classes in at least three AKC trials. *Cathy Fleury & Seeker, 197.66*

**DEBBIE ORR MEMORIAL AWARD** - awarded to the member whose dog(s) earned the most AKC titles or international equivalents during the year. *Cathy Fleury*

**HEATHER MEMORIAL AWARD** - offered by Nancy Gillum, in memory of Briarwood's Heather Miss AM/CAN CD., given to the handler whose dog earned the 3 highest scores in Novice A at

AKC trials. *not awarded*

**FOUNDERS AWARD** - offered by Fox Valley Dog Training Club, Inc. in memory of the founders of FVDTC. Awarded to the handler whose dog earned the 3 highest scores in regular classes at AKC trials. *Brenda Rivera & Pilot*

**ED KNEIP AWARD** - given to the handler whose dog earned the highest combined score in Open B and Utility A or B at same AKC trial. *Brenda Rivera & Pilot*

**KANOSAK KENNEL AWARD** - given to the handler whose dog earned the 3 highest Utility A scores at AKC trials with at least 5 scores being submitted. *Nancy Einwich & Emily*

**SALLY COMPTON OUTSTANDING SERVICE TO THE CLUB AWARD** - given to a club member to acknowledge them and their contributions to the club. This award is especially significant because it offers you the opportunity to nominate a fellow club member for their efforts. - *Cheryl Hettinger*

**Boner Award** – Dianne Herold

**Boner Runner-Up** – Francene Andresen

## MEMBERSHIP MEETING HIGHLIGHTS (MARCH 24, 2010)

Meeting brought to order at 7:40 p.m.

### Committee Reports

- ◆ **Carolyn Pearson** (Secretary). The January Meeting Minutes were approved as published.
- ◆ **Ed Herdes** (First Vice-President) reported that the fairgrounds is painting the floor a Kelly green color, toward the end of March.
- ◆ **Jill Hansrote** (Second Vice-President) reported that there will be a guest speaker at the May 5<sup>th</sup> Membership meeting. Mike Mifflin, certified in the Amichien Bonding Technique, will present a program beginning at 7:00 p.m.
- ◆ **Nancy Einwich** (Obedience Trial Secretary) was not in attendance, however Carolyn stated that Nancy has submitted paperwork to AKC for the 2010 Obedience/Rally trial.
- ◆ **Sue MacPherson** (Membership Chairperson) read a list of nine applicants. Ingrid Hamburger made a motion to accept the list as read. Joyce Conway seconded the motion. The list was accepted by all members present, with no one opposed or abstaining. Welcome to all new members!
- ◆ **Barb Runkle** (Public Education Coordinator) stated that she will have a table set-up at the FVDTC Agility Trial on April 3<sup>rd</sup> and April 4<sup>th</sup>.
- ◆ **Cheryl Hettinger** (Annual Dinner Chairperson) reported that the dinner is set and all is "A-OK"! She stated that "we are going to have a good time." Connie Crawford is collecting the reservations. Cheryl said she thinks we have approximately 45 folks.
- ◆ **Ingrid Hamburger** (Match Steward Chairperson) stated that once again we need stewards for the April 15<sup>th</sup> correction clinic.
- ◆ **David Lewis** (Waggin' Tales Editor) reported that the next Waggin' Tales deadline is Sunday, April 4<sup>th</sup>.

### Monthly Dollar Bucket

...and the winner of \$4.00 is Ingrid Hamburger as drawn by club member, Carolyn Pearson. The remaining \$3.00 went to the tracking fund.

### Old Business

- ◆ None

### New Business

#### ◆ 2010 Calendar Notables

Carolyn stated that IN SPITE her report at the January's membership this year, the St. Peter's Barn Sale will not be held at the fairgrounds this year. Therefore, there WILL be training on September 16<sup>th</sup>; and there will ONLY be a Correction Clinic on Thursday, November 11<sup>th</sup>. There will not be regular training on November 9<sup>th</sup> as originally scheduled. Updated calendars were available at the meeting and are available at training.

#### ◆ Training Night Reminders

- Please do NOT leave your 'stuff' on the information table. This makes it very difficult for Cheryl to assist our guests.
- Please do NOT cover the poster board for the Correction Steward sign-up. This makes it very difficult for individuals to volunteer for the correction clinics.
- Please respect the signs for Handicapped parking spaces. IF you do not have a mirror sign or a handicapped license plate, you should not be parking by the signs.
- Please do NOT leave any doggy-droppings on the fairgrounds property.

A motion was made, seconded and approved to adjourn the meeting at 8:29 p.m.

## TIPS FROM IAN DUNBAR, PART 2

By Will Short

I would suggest that anyone interested in reading a concise, well written book which describes learning theory might read Ian Dunbar's book *HOW TO TEACH AN OLD DOG NEW TRICKS* and see immediately the chapter entitled "Training Theory." He suggests that, if you are looking for more, just consult any psychology 101 textbook. You will come away with a basic understanding of operant conditioning and classical conditioning. Given the choice, I'd opt for the Dunbar book. He is a fine writer and describes his ideas very clearly.

It was Thorndike who came up with the Law of Effect, which states that behavior is driven by consequences. Rewarding behavior increases the frequency of that behavior; punishing a behavior decreases the frequency of a behavior. If your dog does what you like, tell him; if he does something you do not like, tell him to stop. An easier method is to reward the behavior I like and ignore the behavior I do not like. My punishment is, in effect, no reward at all. We just start over and work to get it right. When that happens, a reward is given.

Rewards with the highest value are the ones given at unexpected times and only after you get the behavior that you like. Offering a reward up front is of no value. According to Dunbar, the two most common mistakes we make are never praising a dog when he is right, and never punishing when the dog is wrong. For Dunbar, punishment could be simply a no reward situation or a brief time out.

If your dog tends to duck his head as your hand nears, this indicates a problem. Probably the best way to repair this would be to call your dog to you, ask him to sit, praise him lavishly, and give him a treat. You build a better relationship between you and your dog every time you do this. Over time he will learn that your approaching hand means something good for him, and he has no reason to fear you.

One thing I hear a lot is that people know that their dogs know every exercise that they have been taught, but when they get to another place, it's as though the dogs haven't a clue as to what to do. We, as humans, generalize; dogs discriminate, and this depends upon where he is. If the picture changes for him, then he may not behave the way you might expect even though you know he knows what he is supposed to do. A great example of this would be about any obedience exercise that you can think of that you are sure he knows. You practice a lot, and when you get to the trial, he seems clueless. He isn't, he's just not generalizing well because his picture has changed and so has the atmosphere around him. Training and practice are usually much less stressful than just entering a room where an obedience trial is taking place. Your dog reacts to that tension. I admire any dog who can walk into a trial, go into the ring, and qualify. He has been able to cope with all of

the distractions and the altered picture.

One method that many use for dealing out rewards is to put your dog on a reinforcement schedule. Dunbar says that these schedules do not work. As stated above rewards that happen randomly after a behavior you like works much better and is more effective for getting the behavior you want. Punishment does not work, and every time you use it, you face the possibility of doing damage. Obedience is difficult enough for your dog, and if you punish him for his mistakes, pretty soon you will suck out all of the enjoyment that the two of you may have had when you started all of this stuff. Remember, he did not volunteer to do these things, so it's up to you to make it fun, rewarding, and as stress free as you can make it.

Dunbar suggests a four step method for teaching your dog English and for dealing with a lot of the problems that our dogs have to deal with. For example, if your dog lunges and barks at an approaching dog or person, you could use the following every time:

1. Ask him to come to you—take steps back if necessary.
2. Ask him to sit in front of you.
3. Tell him he is great.
4. Give him a treat.

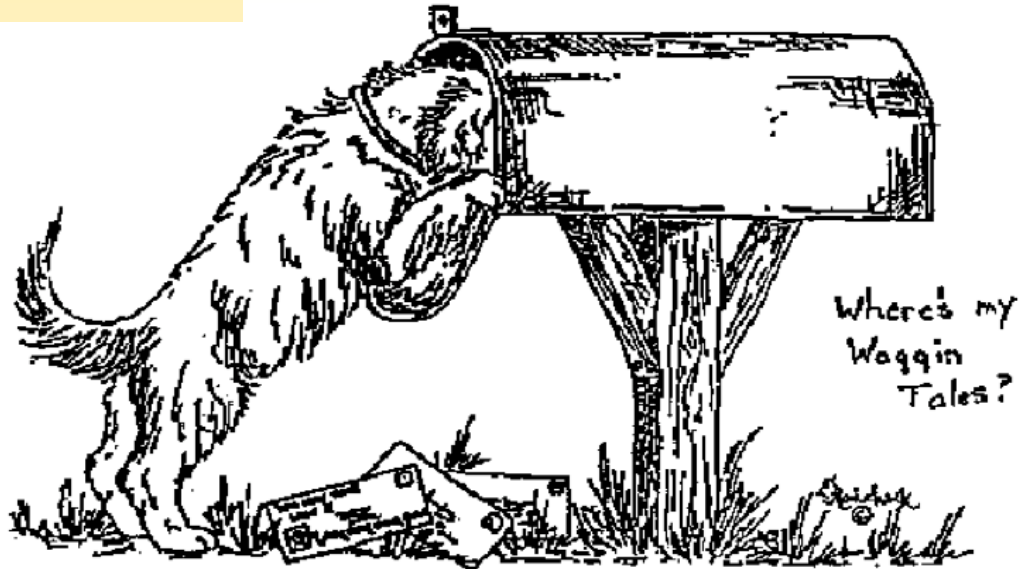
These four steps can be used over and over to teach your dog what you want him to do, and in the meantime, he will become classically conditioned to respond and react to you rather than to outside issues.

Dunbar mentions seven areas that he refers to as Constraints on Learning. They are:

1. The use of large words. This is a time to keep your language plain and concise.
2. Anthropomorphic terms get in the way: he's doing it for spite; he's doing it for revenge; he's jealous; he's protective; he's giving me the finger.
3. Organic problems—illness.
4. Syndromes such as rage OCD, separation anxiety.
5. Pseudo science—shaping.
6. Breed specific problems: he's a sheltie, or he's a GSD.
7. Ambiguous terminology—saying "down" when you really mean "off."

These are more of the notes that I took at the Dunbar seminar last July. If you have any questions please feel free to email me at [blacksnow@comcast.net](mailto:blacksnow@comcast.net).

**Fox Valley Dog Training Club, Inc.**  
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### May 2010

- 5 Wednesday Membership Meeting
- 6 Thursday Regular Training
- 9 Sunday Waggin' Tales Deadline
- 13 Thursday Regular Training
- 20 Thursday Correction Clinic  
CGC Test

### June 2010

- 3 Thursday Regular Training  
Start Puppy/Beginner Session
- 4 Friday Board Meeting
- 6 Sunday Waggin' Tales Deadline
- 10 Thursday Regular Training
- 17 Thursday Sanctioned Match
- 23 Wednesday End 4H
- 24 Thursday Regular Training

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