

TRAP FALLS KENNEL CLUB NEWSLETTER



January-February 2011

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MEETING NOTICE

The next meeting will be February 1, 2011 at the Shelton Lakes Health Care facility at 7:30 p.m. with the board meeting at 6:30 p.m.

The March 1, 2011 meeting will be at Shelton Lakes Health Care at 7:30 p.m. with the board meeting at 6:30 p.m.

CALENDAR

February 1- meeting

March 1- meeting

April 5- meeting

April 8- Spring Show

May 3- meeting Donna Velardi, owner of 'Zodiapet' will speak at the May meeting. Donna specializes in Animal Communication, Animal Massage Therapy, Pet Astrology and Reiki Healing and will shed insight on some of her techniques.

June picnic- date to be announced

July 5- meeting

August 2- meeting

September 6- meeting

September 10- Responsible Dog Ownership Day

October 4- meeting

November 1-meeting

December Christmas party-date to be announced

STEWARDING for the 2011 show.

We still need members to volunteer for Rally and Obedience.. Hope some of you will join. Please call Jane Edmunds, 203-876-1310 or elmud@att.net

Welcome to new members:

Dona and Joe Campbell, 102 Pemburn Drive, Fairfield, CT 06824
203-254-2994, celtic102@msn.com Breeds: Brittany and mixed breeds

Robert and Yvette Elliott, 60 Holland Road, Bridgeport, CT 06610,
203-371-4481, yvetteelliott@sbcglobal.net, Breeds: Rottweiler

Daryl Masone, 20 Autumn Ridge Road, Trumbull, CT 06611,
Trumbull, CT 06611, 203-729-884, Poodlerescuect@yahoo.com,
Breeds: Poodle

Rebecca and Paddy Jarit, 58 Old Sawmill Road, Naugatuck, CT 06770, 203-378-2219, bccgoldy03@yahoo.com, Breeds: Shetland sheepdog

Please add them to you membership lists

Dues notices will be going out at the end of January. Please renew promptly and if you are not renewing please let Eve Skrabl know at Sableskrabl@comcast.net.

Presidents Message

Happy New Year everyone! I hope everyone had a great holiday season. Was Santa good to all the kids? Furry kids that is!

As we start this New Year with lots of enthusiasm in our resolutions, I hope we all find time to put some of that positive energy towards some club activities. It is your club, not the board's club, not another member's club, it is your club.

What do you want to see happen this year? What guest speakers/topics would you like to hear about? What show, match or event do you want to help out at? Where do you want to have the next picnic or party?

We have plenty of openings for volunteerism.

I would like to see at least one new/familiar face at a meeting each month. Bring your ideas, enthusiasm and dog to the next meeting and we can help you get involved! You can email ideas and suggestions to any board member at any time too!

Don't forget to send submissions to the newsletter, it is a nice way of letting your fellow club members how you have fun with your dogs!

Stay happy and healthy and have a great New Year! See you at a meeting soon.

Laura Wells

**Trap Falls Kennel Club and Literacy
Volunteers of Greater Waterbury**

join in successful Family Literacy program

The auditorium at Silas Bronson Library in Waterbury was the site of Literacy Volunteers of Greater Waterbury's (LVGW) program, "Alphabet Explorers", on Saturday November 20. The featured letter was "D" for Dogs and LVGW and Trap Falls Kennel Club of Shelton CT teamed up for this event.

Two members from the Kennel Club came with their Therapy dogs as over 20 families and two R.E.A.D (Reading Education Assistance Dogs) teams of West Highland White Terriers and Brittany Spaniels listened attentively to dog stories. Dona Campbell and Chris Durgin (both from Fairfield) who brought their Canine companions, explained to the young audience the Do's and Don'ts of approaching strange dogs, and demonstrated obedience and tricks. After the reading session, the eager young listeners were allowed to pet and sit with the attention-loving dogs. LVGW is on a roll with this very successful pilot program. LVGW Executive Director Tina Agati, and accompanying Program Director, Vanessa Vowe, started this family literacy program, which features specific letters and books/themes each month. Youngsters and their parents are invited to come and listen to stories on the designated theme, in hopes of encouraging reading and discovery.

Literacy Volunteers of Greater Waterbury is a non-profit organization whose mission is to teach adults how to read, write, and speak English so that they may achieve personal, educational, employment and civic goals within their community.

Trap Falls Kennel Club is an All-breed dog club located in Upper Fairfield County Connecticut, and is a Member Club of the American Kennel Club. TFKC members are involved in all aspects of the dog world including confirmation showing, obedience, agility, rally, hunt trials, lure coursing, and tracking as well as therapy work.

RED FLAG ends in a BRAG

Agility Ring Gates

Welcome to the New Year. Hope everyone had a great holiday and is staying warm this winter. I had a show experience to share with everyone that I hope doesn't happen to anyone!

The Thanksgiving cluster is a show cluster in Springfield Mass all dog persons have been to at some point. This cluster offers confirmation, obedience and agility. The obedience and agility trials are held in the Mallory building separate from the confirmation competition. Within the Mallory building the obedience and agility people are in separate

rooms. I now know why. In my opinion, Agility dog behavior and standards are held on a separate level from obedience and confirmation dogs.

After 25 years in the Rottweiler breed, I personally had an event committee action on Sunday that was eye opening. I was entered for the 3rd leg of my CD with my 4 yr old Champion rottweiler bitch, Izzabella Lace. After 10 dogs the judge elected to do long sits and downs and being 5 dogs from that point I decided to go watch a fellow competitor run her agility trial. Owning a rottweiler I always look for an opening ring side to avoid any and all confrontations. Not because Izzy is bad but because I don't trust other exhibitors and their control of their dogs.

After finding a space near the exit gate of the agility ring, (I found out later everyone clears the end gate when this particular exhibitor runs) I watched this over energized yellow lab run his course. (The dog I went to watch was running after the lab). I was standing with my bitch sitting on my feet in front of me on her 4' leash. Half of the leash was wrapped around my fingers so she had about 2' to move. After this highly energized yellow lab finished his course, the owner hooked him up to his 6' leash and came running out of the exit gate thrilled with her run. There was no control of the dog. Both dog and owner were over the top with energy and excitement. At the time I was standing next to a chair and bait bag. (finding out later it was the labs) most dogs are highly rewarded after they come out of the agility ring. Well, this lab, at the end of the 6' leash came running right for me & Izzy to get to his reward. Well, he had to go thru me and Izzy to get to his reward. All Izzy saw was this dog coming straight for us. She did what any dog would do and planted herself in between me and the charging dog and stood her ground. There was a lot of noise but no contact happened. Remember my leash was only 4 feet so this confrontation happened in the space of a person standing at my side.

Did I mention standing to my left was an Obedience judge friend of mine along with the AKC Field Rep who were chatting? They both heard everything! Of course an event committee hearing was called. Ultimately neither of us was found at fault. I was told it is common practice in, around and after a run in agility to get the dogs as pumped as possible to make them better performance dogs. I was then quickly educated as to why no one stands within 20' of the exit gate. The dogs are so pumped up when they come out so they need time to decompress, not to mention don't go near any ones chairs or bait bags! I found it amazing this behavior is not only allowed but accepted in the agility world. There was just too much energy in the air and I was an inexperienced spectator in the agility world. I mentioned at the hearing I thought the agility people should put up a gated exit ring to allow the dogs to decompress before allowing them into the general population of the show.



I am happy to report Izzy and I made it back to the obedience ring and qualified for our third leg for our CD and earned our title that day! Another day in the dog world of showing dogs! She let it go as soon as we walked away; it took me the rest of the day to get over it.
Laura

Therapy Dogs

The Board has noted that members of the club are participating in therapy at many different locations and wish to commend the club members on their activities. Participants are reminded that the club's insurance does **NOT** cover members or their dogs in the event of an incident unless the visit is a "club sponsored" event. At present the club has not authorized any club sponsored events for quite a while and we have none planned for the near future. Members are reminded that they could be held legally liable for damages or injuries, as well as legal costs if something happens or a claim/suit is filed. Remember that all dogs should be certified through TDI, Delta or another therapy organization to participate in any therapy activity as some of these organizations provide insurance coverage that may respond if an incident takes place while on an authorized visit. Members are encouraged to contact their certifying organization to determine exactly what coverage would be available and in what specific situations.

Baking Soda Tips

Clean your dog's toys safely using baking soda. For plastic toys, mix a solution of water and baking soda and wash. Give stuffed or furry toys a "dry shower" by sprinkling on Baking soda and allowing it to sit for 15 minutes before brushing off.

Sprinkle baking soda to clean your hands if they are smelly after pumping gas or slicing an onion. Sprinkle right on your hands and wipe them clean with a damp paper towel. In fact, sprinkle baking soda anywhere to help neutralize odors. It can be used after a pet accident; in your pet's bedding, in your car on the carpeting, or even in smelly shoes. Cindy Richardson

AKC News

AKC Welcomes Three New Breeds

The American Kennel Club is pleased to announce that three new breeds became eligible for AKC registration on January 1, 2011, bringing the total number of registered breeds to 170.

The Entlebucher Mountain Dog was bred to move cows from pasture to pasture in the Swiss Alps. Medium-sized and strongly muscled, the Entle is a hard worker and can excel at canine sports.

The Norwegian Lundehund is the only AKC-registered breed whose original purpose was puffin hunting. Today the breed makes a loyal and playful family companion.

One of the world's oldest and rarest breeds, the Xoloitzcuintli are still considered "healers" in remote Mexican and Central American villages today. The breed's name is pronounced show-low-etz-queent-lee. The AKC also welcomes the following breeds into the Miscellaneous Class: Bergamasco, Boerboel, Dogo Argentino, Portuguese Podengo Pequeno, Peruvian Inca Orchid, Pumi, Sloughi and Wirehaired Vizsla

Mark your calendar or set your DVR for the television broadcast of the 10th annual AKC/Eukanuba National Championship, scheduled to air on ABC on Sunday, January 23rd, 2011 at 2 p.m. EST/PST or 1 p.m. CST. You'll be able to see each AKC breed compete for the title of National Champion as well as special features like junior handlers and the AKC Breeder of the Year and AKC Humane Fund Awards for Canine Excellence presentations.

THE AMERICAN KENNEL CLUB'S OVERALL ENTRIES INCREASE IN 2010

-- Records More Than 3 Million Entries --

New York, NY — The American Kennel Club[®] (AKC[®]) leapt over the 3 million entry mark in 2010, recording a total of more than 3,014,000 dog entries across all conformation, companion and performance events. The growth over the number of entries received in 2009 was sparked by the ever-growing interest in the sport of Agility, where entries increased by 9%. The new "Grand Champion" title assisted shows by providing an increase of over 40,000 additional entries in Best of Breed. This equates to more than \$1.2 million in additional entry fees to Conformation clubs. "We were very proud to see the uptick in entries," said Dennis B. Sprung, AKC's President and CEO. "The increase is a promising step forward for our clubs in the face of a persistently challenging economy."

We will continue to research ways to enhance the fun and value of competing in each of our sports.”

In addition, Sprung said, “We salute the finest Agility competitors in the nation who continue to set records; the entire AKC community appreciates their skills.”

The 2010 entry total includes entries from all-breed and specialty conformation shows, obedience, field trials, hunt tests, coonhound events, herding tests and trials, lure coursing, agility, earthdog, tracking and rally.



I rescued a human today.

Her eyes met mine as she walked down the corridor peering apprehensively into the kennels. I felt her need instantly and knew I had to help her. I wagged my tail, not too exuberantly, so she wouldn't be afraid. As she stopped at my kennel I blocked her view from a little accident I had in the back of my cage. I didn't want her to know that I hadn't been walked today. Sometimes the shelter keepers get too busy and I didn't want her to think poorly of them. As she read my kennel card I hoped that she wouldn't feel sad about my past. I only have the future to look forward to and want to make a difference in someone's life. She got down on her knees and made little kissy sounds at me. I shoved my shoulder and side of my head up against the bars to comfort her. Gentle fingertips caressed my neck; she was desperate for companionship. A tear fell down her cheek and I raised my paw to assure her that all would be well. Soon my kennel door opened and her smile was so bright that I instantly jumped into her arms. I would promise to keep her safe. I would promise to always be by her side. I would promise to do everything I could to see that radiant smile and sparkle in her eyes. I was so fortunate that she came down my corridor. So many more are out there who

haven't walked the corridors. So many more to be saved. At least I could save one. I rescued a human today.

A Dog Poem

Now I lay me down to sleep, the king-size bed is soft & deep,
I sleep right in the center groove, my human being can hardly move.
I've trapped their legs, they're tucked in tight,
And here is where I pass the night.
No one disturbs me or dares intrude,
Till morning comes and I want food.
I sneak up slowly to begin, sniffing on my humans chin,
He wakes up softly, I start to lick
And suddenly he's up real quick.
For mornings here and time to play,
I always seem to get my way.
So, thank you Lord for giving me this human person that I see.
The one who hugs and holds me tight, and gives their bed up for the night for me.

Valentine Kisses Recipe

2lbs liver
1 ½ cups of water
2 cloves fresh garlic

Place liver, garlic and water in a glass bowl in microwave.

Cook on high for 10 minutes

Remove and drain juice (but save it to pour over kibble or use, in place of water in other recipes!)

Remove garlic

Dice liver into bite size pieces and place on paper towel

Microwave 10 minutes at high

(times may vary depending on microwave)

store in airtight container in fridge.

DEADLINE for the March-April newsletter is March 7, 2011

Editors Comments: Please continue to send photos and articles to me at csweetwood@att.net for evaluation for the newsletter. Remember to include "TFKC" in the heading or it may never get opened due to the high SPAM content these days. Please note that the deadline for the next newsletter has been moved up a month to facilitate an earlier publication date for the next issue. I hope to get the newsletter out a month earlier than in the past. Chris Sweetwood.