

# TRAP FALLS KENNEL CLUB NEWSLETTER



## November-December 2008

### TFKC OFFICERS

President: Laura Wells 929-1332  
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Corresponding Sec.: Debbie Saray 268-1194  
Recording Sec.: Debbie Lindsay 929-3329  
Treasurer: Laura Hovanec 723-4187

[www.TRAPFALLS.org](http://www.TRAPFALLS.org)

### Newsletter Editor

Chris Sweetwood  
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### AKC Delegate

Chris Sweetwood 877-6157

### Canine Legislation Rep.

Mary Carroll 753-3880

## MEETING NOTICE

The February 3, 2009 meeting will be at Shelton Lakes Health Care at 7:30 with the board meeting at 6:30. The remaining meeting dates are posted on the calendar below.

### CALENDAR

**February 3** meeting- Discussion on AVMA Docking and Cropping position

**March 3** meeting- Dr. Arnold Goldman. CT State Animal Response Team

**April 3- Spring Show**

**April 7** meeting- Dog First Aid Class

**May 5** meeting- What is the AKC Presentation?

**June Picnic- Date to be announced**

**August 4** meeting- Therapy Dogs Inc., speaker

**September 1** meeting- RDOD Meeting

**September Responsible Dog Ownership Day- date to be announced**

**October 6** meeting- Nominations for club officers from the floor

**November 3** meeting- Installation of officers and pizza party.

**December Christmas Party-date to be announced**

### Membership news

Welcome to new members Scott and Lynn Kovack, 6 Apple blossom Lane, Newtown, CT 06470, Phone Number 203-426-5770, e-mail: [Tweediegir@aol.com](mailto:Tweediegir@aol.com) Breed: Rottweiler. Applicants Robert and Sue Carter have met their requirements and have been approved by the board. They will be voted on by the general membership at the next meeting. If any member of TFKC knows of any reason these applicants should not be admitted into the club, please contact a club officer or board member. Dues notices will be sent out in the month of Jan. Your prompt renewal is greatly appreciated. (Reported by Eva Skrabl)

## Responsible Dog Ownership Day

**We Won:** At the December 2008 AKC Delegates Meeting Trap Falls Kennel Club received a Fourth Quarter AKC Community Achievement Award. The club was selected from over 600 member clubs that held an RDOD as one of the three top clubs in the country. The Award included a check for \$1,000.00 and a beautiful Certificate of Recognition. The official AKC Press Release is printed in the AKC news portion of this newsletter. This is national recognition for the "Great Work" everyone in the club did in the planning and execution of our RDOD at Old Mine Park. I would like to thank each and every one of you who helped make this day a great success. (Reported by Chris Sweetwood)

### President's message

In Trap Falls Kennel Club we are a large membership with a very diverse group of people. Some can devote a lot of time to the club, some, a small amount of time, some none at all. It is this flexibility that allows club members to contribute their time to the best of their ability. We all have busy lives which leave very little time for volunteering or attending club meetings. When someone who is an integral part of the club moves away or leaves the club, they are replaced by new members forever joining the club. This is how we survive. I would like to do more than survive. I would like to grow into the club we all are proud to be a member of.

One of the simplest ways a club member can give to the club is by stepping up to the plate and volunteering at events or attending club meetings. We host an all breed show along with an obedience and rally trial once a year. We host a responsible dog ownership day every fall. We offer training classes weekly and health clinics when we can. We have a web site forever needing updating. We have a newsletter that needs articles and information to keep us all in the dog loop.

All of this takes volunteerism. Even if you have never been to a dog show or attended an obedience trial or one of our training classes it is OK. Now is the time to make that phone call and ask where you can volunteer. The reason most folks never pick up the phone and volunteer is because they feel they don't have the knowledge or skill to offer the club. That is why we are a club! We will take you by the hand and guide you and help you learn the "ropes" to any event or interest you may have. If you don't want to call but have an idea for the web site or a doggy article share it with us. Send Chris your ideas for the newsletter. Don't be shy, you joined the club because you love dogs and dog people, didn't you?

I hope to see you at our next meeting or club event.

Laura Wells

## CLASSES

THIS WILL BE AN 8 WEEK COURSE ON BASIC PUPPY CARE AND SKILLS FOR THE COMPLETE NOVICE OWNER. You will be welcomed by our certified instructor, Peg Demaine. Important health care issues and concerns will be discussed to make sure you are on the right track to keeping your puppy healthy and happy. You will then be instructed on how to get your dog motivated and focused so that basic learning skills can be taught. Once you can get your dogs attention, a supervised "socialization party" will take place. It is very important that dogs socialize with other dogs as well as humans. After that, is puppy cool-down time.

All students are required to pre-register by calling Chris Durgin at 203-259-2865. Students must be 18 yrs or older or accompanied by an adult. Classes will begin February 10, 2009 and run for 8 weeks ending on March 31. Cost is \$120.00 for the session. Classes begin at 6:30 and ends at 8:00 pm.

Classes will be held at Shelton Lakes healthcare facility in Shelton.

All dogs must be on a leash. All students must come prepared to clean up after their dog (plastic bag, paper towels.)

This class is sponsored by Trap Falls Kennel Club; please visit our website at [www.trapfalls.org](http://www.trapfalls.org) for more information. We need some volunteers to assist at the classes and some new dog owners to participate. Please call Chris Durgin at 203-259-2865 to volunteer

## APRIL SHOW

The April 3, 2009 show is fast approaching and Jane Edmunds is looking for someone who wants to learn how to be a chief ring steward which is a very rewarding and satisfying position. Call Jane at 876-

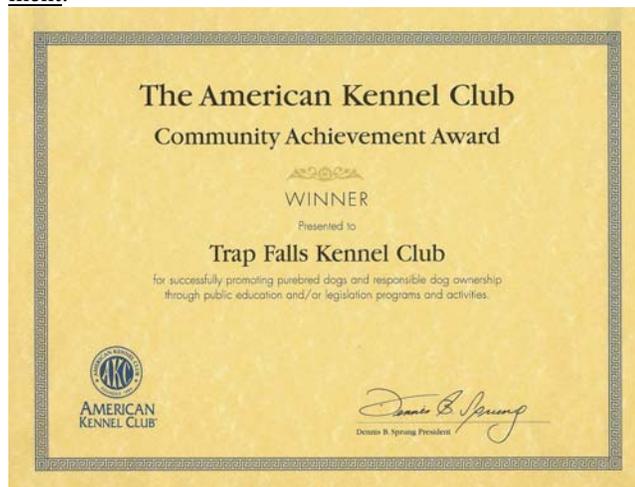
1310 or e-mail [elmud@att.net](mailto:elmud@att.net) . You will not be disappointed.

## AKC News

### AMERICAN KENNEL CLUB HONORS TRAP FALLS KENNEL CLUB WITH A COMMUNITY ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

New York, NY – The American Kennel Club® announced recently that Trap Falls Kennel Club (TFKC) of Upper Fairfield County, Connecticut has been named a recipient of the AKC® Community Achievement Award for hosting an exceptional AKC Responsible Dog Ownership (RDO) Day event. The TFKC received one of three awards for the fourth quarter of 2008– Greenville Kennel Club and Upper Potomac Valley Kennel Club also received recognition. The AKC Community Achievement Awards support and recognize outstanding public education and legislation efforts of AKC-affiliated clubs, AKC-recognized federations and their members. The AKC selects award recipients who promote purebred dogs and responsible dog ownership within their communities or who have successfully introduced, monitored and responded to legislative issues affecting dog ownership. The fourth quarter awards are reserved solely for clubs that hosted exceptional AKC RDO Day events in the month of September. TFKC attracted nearly a thousand community members to its AKC RDO Day event. The club offered a Parade of Breeds; agility, obedience and Schutzhund demonstrations; AKC CGC testing; AKC-sanctioned Obedience and Rally matches; grooming and microchip clinics; and contests such as "Best Kisser," "Best Trick" and "Best Tail Wagger." To make it easier for spectators to navigate the event, the club created a program listing the club, vendor and sponsor information as well as a booklet describing the breeds attendees would see in the Parade of Breeds. TFKC also extensively recruited participant groups from their community, including the Milford Police Department and Connecticut State Police K-9 Unit, who demonstrated how dogs entered and exited vehicles and how they search for specific items. They also invited national AKC RDO Day sponsor Invisible Fence Brand, Therapy Dogs Incorporated, the Trumbull Animal Group and Natural Choice Pet Foods to staff booths and offer information to the public. The club appointed a publicity chairperson to actively promote the event and attract spectators. They received an "AKC Responsible Dog Ownership Day" proclamation from the First Selectman of Trumbull, Connecticut as well as coverage in the Connecticut Post, Trumbull Times, Fairfield Sun, The Review and local radio and TV stations. "We are pleased that the Trap Falls Kennel Club took on the task of hosting such a large and multi-faceted event," said Noreen Baxter, AKC's VP of Communications. "With all the different activities, the club reached a wide audience and introduced community members to the wonderful world of dogs, something which the AKC and its member clubs are always striving for." Nominations for the AKC Community Achievement Awards are accepted year-round. Up to three honorees are named each quarter. They

receive a certificate of appreciation and a \$1,000 check payable to the club or federation's public education and canine legislation efforts. To nominate a club, visit [http://www.akc.org/public\\_education/community\\_achievement](http://www.akc.org/public_education/community_achievement).



## DECEMBER CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

-- AKC's 125th Anniversary Celebration in 2009 --

New York, NY - Next month when we ring in the New Year, we will also kick off the celebration of our 125th Anniversary. We will mark not only our growth over the last century-and-a-quarter but celebrate the wonderful experiences, friendships and traditions that the sport of purebred dogs has given generations of American dog lovers. In 1884, AKC began its all-breed purebred dog registry with just 9 breeds. As of January 1, 2009 the AKC will recognize 161 breeds. When you add the 60 plus breeds in our Foundation Stock Service, AKC actively promotes more than 200 breeds in the U.S. today. Our first office in 1887 in the Wall Street area consisted of nothing more than a 15 by 20 foot room with a desk, a few chairs and a single file cabinet. Today, we have two locations - our headquarters in Manhattan and Operations Center in Raleigh with nearly 400 employees to handle our daily business. At our bi-annual Open House in New York this February, we will include a special 125-year timeline exhibit from the AKC archives. The AKC Gazette, which began continuous publication in 1889, has certainly chronicled our growth. So has The Complete Dog Book, which still reigns as the most widely published dog book with more than 2 million copies in print, since 1929. To add to this published record of AKC and the sport, we are planning an updated sourcebook to be released in the fall of 2009. This book will be a revised edition of the first sourcebook published in 1984 to celebrate our centennial. As a "club of clubs" our growth has been explosive. From a handful of founding clubs, we now boast more than 600 member clubs and their Delegates who voluntarily contribute to the governance of the AKC. In 1926, AKC conducted its first dog show in conjunction with the 150th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of

Independence. It took another 58 years until we held our next - The AKC Centennial Show in 1984 in Philadelphia - and since the turn of the century we have held the annual national championship event which took place this past weekend. A year from now in December 2009, as a fitting tribute to AKC's 125th Anniversary, the ninth installment of the AKC / Eukanuba National Championship will waive its invitational format and offer classes at the breed level along with championship points. Already national and regional breed clubs are planning to hold their specialty shows and supported entries with us in Long Beach, on Dec. 12th and 13th. This special event will be joined once again by the Bred-by-Exhibitor competition, Eukanuba World Challenge, AKC National Obedience Invitational and the AKC Agility Invitational. I want to thank The Kennel Club of Beverly Hills, the Los Encinos Kennel Club and the Long Beach Kennel Club for making us feel so welcome year after year as we join them at their venue. Next year's show will be a birthday party not to be missed. I hope you will join us!

Finally, to help us and our clubs mark this banner year and promote our iconic brand to the public we have created a special 125th year commemorative AKC logo. We encourage AKC clubs to use this in conjunction with their club logo wherever possible throughout 2009. The logo can be found on the AKC web site under the "Clubs" tab at: <http://www.akc.org/clubs/logo/index.cfm>. We encourage all clubs to help us celebrate AKC's 125th year - it's a unique and significant accomplishment that underscores our commitment to dogs.

Sincerely,

Ron Menaker  
Chairman

## AKC ANNOUNCES NEW AKC S.T.A.R. PUPPY PROGRAM

New York, NY- The American Kennel Club(r) announced today that it is rolling out a new training program geared towards puppies and their owners. The AKC S.T.A.R.sm Puppy Program will reward responsible owners who take the time to train and socialize their new puppies. The program is a natural pre-cursor to the AKC Canine Good Citizen(r) Test. "S.T.A.R." stands for Socialization, Training, Activity and a Responsible owner, all of the things a puppy needs to have a good life. Start life on the "right paw." "The AKC S.T.A.R. Puppy Program will provide dog owners with the tools to raise and train their dog responsibly and prepare the puppy to become an AKC Canine Good Citizen," said Dr. Mary Burch, AKC CGC Director.

To get started, owners enroll in any puppy or basic training class that is at least six weeks long and instructed by an AKC Approved CGC Evaluator. Classes will include valuable training tips for puppy owners- such as how to housetrain - and lessons on practical skills for puppies - such as coming when called. The program is open to all dogs. Puppies can begin training as soon as they have the

necessary vaccines and they can enroll in AKC S.T.A.R. Puppy at any point up until their first birthday.

"We want to do our part to make sure all puppies have a good life," added Dr. Burch. "Early training and socialization along with teaching the owner the necessary skills is the key to having a well-behaved, well-adjusted dog and ensuring that dogs don't end up in shelters because of behavior problems."

At the end of the training course, the CGC Evaluator will administer the AKC S.T.A.R. Puppy test. Upon passing, owners and their puppies will be enrolled in the AKC S.T.A.R. Puppy Program and will receive an AKC S.T.A.R. Puppy package which includes:

- \* A frameable certificate
  - \* AKC S.T.A.R. Puppy medal
  - \* AKC Puppy Handbook
  - \* Discount enrollment in AKC Companion Animal Recovery
  - \* Subscription to monthly e-mail newsletter that includes training tips. To find a CGC evaluator in your area visit [http://www.akc.org/events/cgc/cgc\\_bystate.cfm](http://www.akc.org/events/cgc/cgc_bystate.cfm)
- For more information on AKC S.T.A.R. Puppy, see [www.akc.org/starpuppy](http://www.akc.org/starpuppy)

### AMERICAN KENNEL CLUB STATEMENT ON AVMA EAR CROPPING AND TAIL DOCKING POLICY

New York, NY (November 21, 2008) -- The American Kennel Club(r) was advised this week of the AVMA's newly amended policy on ear cropping and tail docking following its adoption by the AVMA Executive Board at the recommendation of their Committee on Animal Welfare on November 15, 2008.

Historically, the AKC has worked closely with the AVMA to ensure that the rights of individual dog owners, and breed standards, remain protected. However, the AKC was very disappointed to not have been consulted regarding this latest iteration of the policy, despite having been in frequent contact with the AVMA in recent months. At a joint meeting this Wednesday AKC explained to the AVMA that we recognize ear cropping and tail docking, as prescribed in certain breed standards, are acceptable practices integral to defining and preserving breed character, enhancing good health, and preventing injuries. These breed characteristics are procedures performed to insure the safety of dogs that on a daily basis perform heroic roles with Homeland Security, serve in the U.S. Military and at Police Departments protecting tens of thousands of communities throughout our nation as well as competing in the field.

Mislabeling these procedures as "cosmetic" is a severe mischaracterization that connotes a lack of respect and knowledge of history and the function of purebred dogs. Breed standards are established and maintained by AKC Parent Clubs (each of the 158 AKC registered breeds is stewarded by a breed-specific Parent Club) keeping foremost in mind the welfare of the breed and the function it was bred to perform.

As a not for profit organization that has been devoted to the advancement and welfare of dogs for 125 years, the AKC believes that all dog owners bear a special responsibility to their canine companions to provide proper care and humane treatment at all times and that responsible dog owners, in consultation with their veterinarian, have the right to make decisions regarding appropriate care and treatment of their pets.

AKC's policy on the issue, which remains unchanged, states:

The American Kennel Club recognizes that ear cropping, tail docking, and dewclaw removal, as described in certain breed standards, are acceptable practices integral to defining and preserving breed character and/or enhancing good health. Appropriate veterinary care should be provided.

Dog owners who would like to contact AVMA directly regarding their policy should direct comments to Gail Golab, head of the AVMA Animal Welfare Division: [ggolab@avma.org](mailto:ggolab@avma.org) or 847-925-8070.

### RAINBOW BRIDGE



Alex Roman lost his beloved "Whoopie" on Jan 5, 2009. She would have been 11 yrs on April 19, 2009. She suddenly became ill 10 days prior to her passing. It is suspected her undiagnosed Lymes disease was a factor. She was a fighter right till the end. Alex requested she be buried at the pool, Pawz For Wellness' where she spent the last year loosing some 48lbs. "Whoopie" obtained her Rally Novice A title last year with Alex at the helm. For all of you who were there it was quite a day for the team.

### CHRISTMAS PARTY

The Christmas party was held at Laura Hovanec's house and it was a blast. Thanks again to Laura and her family for hosting this event.



**Editors Comments:** Please continue to send photos and articles to me at [csweet@optonline.net](mailto:csweet@optonline.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. Chris Sweetwood. This newsletter is being e-mailed to everyone whom the club has an e-mail address for, to save on mailing costs.

I apologize for the tardiness of this newsletter but life got in the way.

**DEADLINE for the January-February newsletter is February 7, 2009**