

TRAP FALLS KENNEL CLUB NEWSLETTER



January-February 2015

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MEETING NOTICE

The next meeting will be March 3, 2015 at Apple Rehab/Shelton Lakes at 7:30 p.m. Board meeting at 6:30 p.m.

CALENDAR 2015

March 3- meeting
April 5- Conformation/Obedience Rally Show
April 7- meeting
May 6- meeting
June 2-meeting
July- Annual Picnic
August 4- meeting
September 1- meeting
September- RDOD-date to be announced
October 6- meeting
November 3- meeting
December- Christmas Party-date to be announced

Membership News

Dues notices have gone out. If you did not receive yours or can't print it out, please let me know. I will be at the Feb and March meetings if anyone wants to save on postage. Please pay promptly, as the last day for payment is April 1. After that date, you will be considered delinquent.

Any questions, please contact me at sableskrabl@comcast.net, 203-732-5939 or 203-736-3672

Eve

Star Puppy Classes

Trap Falls Kennel Club will be holding a 6-week long STAR Puppy Class (Obedience for pups under 12 months old) starting Thursday, March 12 at 6:30 pm. Cost \$140; and Canine Good Citizen (CGC) class, starting Thursday March 12 at 7:45pm at Pawz for Wellness in Shelton. Class runs 8 weeks and costs \$190, and includes the cost of the test. Contact tfkctraining@gmail.com for registration information.

Meet Ann Curcio, the Natural Balance Lady



We have all seen her, at TFKC's Responsible Dog Ownership Day, at Petco, and other animal shelter fund raising events. She is one of the local representatives of Natural Balance Dog food. She is the one that we all know.

She is passionate about the product that she has been selling for several years. She is there to explain and help with whatever questions that you have. She explains the value of the products and how she switched to feeding her dogs Natural Balance and why she feels that it has been a success. And can tell you many other success stories as well of owners that use NB and how the change in nutrition has benefited their dogs as well. And she is always willing to give you a free sample and coupon for you to try for your dog (or cat)!

A few weeks ago Ann offered to distribute TFKC club brochures to anyone that she meets and is interested in club activities. She meets many dog owners. Some have had dogs for years and some are new. Many new owners really don't know much about responsible dog ownership. This is great marketing for Trap Falls by a well-known person in the community.

Thanks so much Ann! We appreciate your help!
Submitted by Cindy Richardson



AKC did a filming at PFW using club members for their new website coming out sometime this year. Here is a few photo of our long sits and downs they took. (Submitted by Laura Wells)

Acupuncture for Pets

On January 20th Cornell University Vet Specialists offered a free seminar in Stamford on Rehabilitation & Sports Medicine Acupuncture. It was conducted by Dr. Lauren R. Frank, who had recently joined Cornell. Acupuncture dates back to ancient Asia over 5000 years ago. It has been known to help many ailments from addiction to pain management, digestion troubles, dental issues and/or stress.

Some topics of Traditional Chinese Medicine included Qi (pronounced Chee), which is energy. A sufficient continuous balanced flow of Qi equals "good health". Pain is a blockage.

Yin = night (cool) feminine Yang = day (warm) masculine (these are obviously opposites)

Jing is a type of Qi. It is predetermined by DNA or Genetics. A purebred dog may have physical problems from an early age. As they often occurs in other dogs of his breed.

Shen is a mental state. If you have healthy shen then you have peace of mind. If there is a shen disturbance then there is behavioral issues (aggression, anxiety, abnormal behavior or phobias) Look at your pet's personality to determine if there is an imbalance. There are 5 element personalities:

Wood, Fire, Water, Earth, or Water

By looking at your dog's tongue for abnormalities like color and swelling is what the acupuncturist uses as a method of diagnosis. Dr. Frank will be taking appointments soon.

There are different pressure points or acupressure used to be effective for humans and pets. Pressure points include those for calming, GI upset and heart abnormalities.

There is a lot to learn and it was a very interesting 90 minutes. I learned a lot. My Dakota is enjoying the "Ah Shen" which is a very calming point in dogs and cats. She gets a massage every night! (Submitted by Cindy Richardson)

Winter Health Tips

Winter's cold air brings many concerns for responsible dog owners. Keep the following precautions in mind:

Don't leave your dog outside in the cold for long periods of time. Wind chill makes days colder than actual temperature readings. Be attentive to your dog's body temperature, and limit its time outdoors. Adequate shelter is a necessity. Keep your dog warm, dry and away from drafts. Tiles and uncarpeted areas may become extremely cold, so make sure to place blankets and pads on floors in these areas.

Be extra careful when walking or playing with your dog near frozen lakes, rivers or ponds. Your dog could slip or jump in and get seriously injured.

Groom your dog regularly. Your dog needs a well-groomed coat to keep properly insulated. Short- or coarse-haired dogs may get extra cold, so consider a sweater or coat. Long-haired dogs should have excess hair around the toes and foot pads trimmed to ease snow removal and cleaning. If you do the trimming, take care not to cut the pads or other delicate area of the foot.

Feed your dog additional calories if it spends a lot of time outdoors or is a working animal. It takes more energy in the winter to keep body temperature regulated, so additional calories are necessary.

Towel or blow-dry your dog if it gets wet from rain or snow. It is important to dry and clean its paws, too. This helps avoid tiny cuts and cracked pads. A little petroleum jelly may soften the pads and prevent further cracking.

Don't leave your dog alone in a car without proper precautions. If the car engine is left on, the carbon monoxide will endanger your dog's life. If the engine is off, the temperature in the car will get too cold.

HEALTH TIPS

Dogs cannot talk to us when they are sick. As a responsible dog owner, it is important to pay special attention to your dog's well-being during the winter season. Remember the following health concerns: Antifreeze, which often collects on driveways and roadways, is highly poisonous. Although it smells and tastes good to your dog, it can be lethal.

Rock salt, used to melt ice on sidewalks, may irritate footpads. Be sure to rinse and dry your dog's feet after a walk.

Provide plenty of fresh water. Your dog is just as likely to get dehydrated in the winter as in the summer. Snow is not a satisfactory substitute for water.

Frostbite is your dog's winter hazard. To prevent frostbite on its ears, tail and feet, don't leave your dog outdoors for too long.

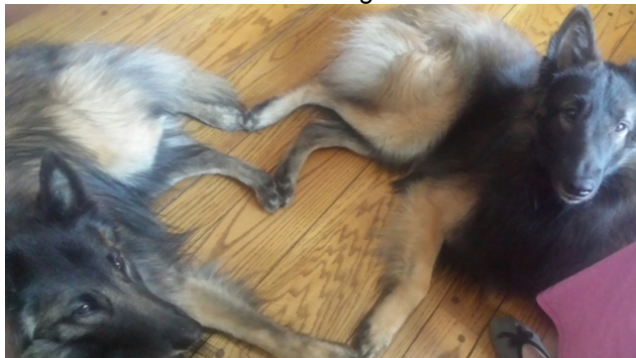
Be very careful of supplemental heat sources.

Fireplaces and portable heaters can severely burn

your dog. Make sure all fireplaces have screens, and keep portable heaters out of reach. Like people, dogs seem to be more susceptible to illness in the winter. Take your dog to a veterinarian if you see any suspicious symptoms. Don't use over-the-counter medications on your dog without consulting a veterinarian.

Photos

Heart dogs



(Submitted by Lisa K. Peters)



First snow for Louie and Tanner (Submitted by Laura Wells)

AKC Delegate News



AKC CLUB HELPS BRING K-9 MURPHY TO THE MONROE POLICE DEPARTMENT

The Monroe Police Department just welcomed a very special addition to their police force -- K-9 Murphy. The German Shepherd Dog was sworn in during a special ceremony attended by members of the local community on Monday, February 9th in Monroe, Connecticut.

Murphy, an 18-month-old male born in Hungary, completed his training with his handler, Officer John McAulay, on January 30, 2015. As a multi-purpose police dog, he is certified in narcotics detection, tracking, building searches, evidence retrieval, apprehension and protection through the North American Police Work Dog Association and Connecticut Police Work Dog Association. Murphy was purchased and trained through Renbar Kennels in New Milford, Connecticut.

This addition of Murphy to the police force was made possible in part by the fundraising efforts of Chris Sweetwood from the Trap Falls Kennel Club.

Unfortunately, many police department K-9 units are suffering budget cuts due to the poor economy, or they are unable to solicit money due to town and municipality codes. As a result, some K-9 handlers forgo training or personally fund their dogs' needs, and in some communities K-9s may not be replaced upon retirement due to budgetary restrictions. Costs are high, with dogs averaging \$10,000. For these reasons, many police K-9 units rely on donations to continue their mission. Sweetwood set up a Go Fund Me page to help raise money to bring Murphy to Monroe and local residents and dog lovers from around the country responded. More than \$5,000 was donated, with AKC Reunite supplying a matching grant of \$5,000.

"Police K-9s provide an invaluable service to the communities they work in and Trap Falls

Kennel Club is proud to have played a role in bringing Murphy to Connecticut," said Sweetwood. "I thank everyone who donated to the Go Fund Me page; it was truly a group effort."

We hope that Murphy and Officer McAulay have a very successful career together. By Stephanie Smith, AKC.

AKC Presidents Letter



AKC clubs are some of the most generous organizations out there, working to support myriad canine-related causes in the local community throughout the year. During the season dedicated to giving, want to share some recent club efforts:

Trap Falls Kennel Club Delegate Chris Sweetwood is leading the charge to help the Monroe (Connecticut) Police Department raise money to purchase a new police dog. K-9s are essential members of law enforcement and perform vital tasks that humans cannot, but costs are high, with dogs averaging \$10,000. In some communities, K-9s may not be replaced upon retirement due to budgetary restrictions. TFKC is using Go Fund Me to raise the. TKFC previously coordinated fund-raising efforts to purchase dogs for the Newtown and Orange police departments.

The **Southern Oregon Kennel Club** also donated \$10,000 to the Jackson County sheriff's office for a new patrol dog. The previous K-9 had retired after more than a decade in service. The club presented the check to the sheriff's office at a local dog show and achieved media coverage.

The **Winnegamie Dog Club** of Menasha, Wisconsin, recently donated a microchip scanner to the Menasha police after realizing that the town didn't have such an important tool. The microchip scanner will help keep lost dogs out of shelters. Club president Don Stanislawski was interviewed on the local NBC station about the gift.

The **Wichita (Kansas) Kennel Club** donated dog boots to help the K-9 corps of the United States

Marines. Last year, the club heard from a Marine about a need for equipment to protect dogs' paws from burning during their explosives training. Club members decided to act and shipped several pairs over to Afghanistan. As a thank-you, the club received a certificate and an American flag flown by a unit in Afghanistan.

Thank you to these clubs and the many others out there working for the betterment of dogs every day. Let us know what you're up to at communications@akc.org so we can spotlight your contributions on our website and in our publications

Dennis B. Sprung
President and CEO-AKC.

Pleasant Thoughts

I will wear soft gray sweatshirts and a bandana over my silver hair and I will spend my social security checks on wine and my dogs. I will sit in my house on my well-worn chair and listen to my dogs' breathing. I will sneak out in the middle of a warm summer night and take my dogs for a run, if my old bones will allow. When people come to call, I will smile and nod as I show them my dogs and talk of them and about them the ones so beloved of the past and the ones so beloved of today I will still work hard cleaning after them, mopping and feeding them and whispering their names in a soft loving way. I will wear the gleaming sweat on my throat, like a jewel and I will be an embarrassment to all especially my family who have not yet found the peace in being free to have dogs as your best friends. These friends who always wait, at any hour, for your footfall and eagerly jump to their feet out of a sound sleep, to greet you as if you are a God. With warm eyes full of adoring love and hope that you will always stay, I'll hug their big strong necks. I'll kiss their dear sweet heads and whisper in their very special company. I look in the Mirror...and see I am getting old this is the kind of person I am...and have always been. Loving dogs is easy, they are part of me. Please accept me for who I am. My dogs appreciate my presence in their lives they love my presence in their lives. When I am old this will be important to me you will understand when you are old if you have dogs to love too.

Author Unknown (Submitted by Mimi Huntley)

DEADLINE for the March-April 2015 newsletter is April 7, 2015

Editors Comments: Please send photos (Photos **must be sent as jpeg attachments**) directly to me at csweetwood@att.net. Articles should be in MS Word or simply written in your e-mail. Remember to include "TFKC" in the heading or it may never get opened due the high SPAM content these days.