

West L.A. News

December 2014

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Being Your Dog's Champion

The email that I received the morning of Saturday, May 18, 2013 was one that I had been dreading. “He is crowding the table and the contacts. I think he is definitely too close for Murray’s comfort zone.”

Murray and I had just started competing in AKC agility; the following day was supposed to be Murray’s second trial. I had developed a set of guidelines for Murray prior to entering our first AKC show, at the crux of it was a “no male judge in Standard.” I therefore plotted out

a series of trials to enter, solely dependent on the gender of the judge in Standard. However, mere days before this particular trial, we were informed that the assigned (female) judge was being replaced by a male judge. Since I was only entered for that Sunday, WLAOTC instructor **Tawn Sinclair** (who was entered that Saturday) graciously agreed to watch the new judge and report back. I woke up on Saturday morning, anxiously awaiting a positive email from Tawn, but instead saw a reply of the contrary. I immediately contacted the trial secretary, withdrawing my entry.

The rules were established partly due to the nerves that go hand-in-hand with most Novice handlers, and partly in order to restart Murray’s competitive agility career on a positive note. A few months prior, we had dipped a toe into competitive agility by way of CPE agility trials. At his second trial, Murray got spooked by a volunteer, yielding a Snooker run that followed the pattern of “red, tunnel, bark at judge.” Clearly unprepared to be in a trial setting, I put any competitive aspirations on hold and focused on Control Unleashed exercises coupled with show-n-gos galore, fortunate to find brave souls willing to walk around the ring to get Murray accustomed to typical trial volunteers. A few weeks before his AKC debut, we entered another CPE trial and he was confident, happy, and focused. Developing a set of stringent guidelines that I was to follow — entering shows with female judges, thoughtfully planning when I would take him out of his crate, when I would give him his last treat, where I would place his jackpot treats, when we would enter the ring — was my assurance that there would not be another incident of judge-menacing and the ensuing humiliation.

Over time, Murray and I became more confident in the ring, ever so slowly shaking off the nervous energy that caused the CPE judge debacle in the first place. That summer, we entered a trial with a male judge in the Standard ring, and Murray seemed just as confident as he had been under female judges.



Photo credit: Matt Palmieri.

Being Your Dog's Champion

Now, the gender of a judge is not a point of consideration in deciding whether to enter a show.

On August 23, 2014, Murray earned his MACH (Master Agility Champion). In the AKC record books, his journey from Novice A to a MACH has been relatively flat – steady progress, consistent Q rate, no major peaks nor valleys. Outside of what AKC could see, however, has been a dissipation of the self-imposed rules, initially developed to hold our team together. Murray was happy to be at trials, and when I heard squealing from the back-seat crate as we'd approach a familiar show site, I would smile and relax. His MACH, to me, therefore does not remind me that he earned 20 QQs and 750 speed points, but rather that Agility is a fun pastime that we can enjoy together, and for the minute or so in the ring, he is just like every other dog, no extra baggage attached. Although I was disappointed withdrawing from that Agility trial last May, I am now grateful that I made that decision to avoid risking any setbacks with my dog.

There are still rules that I follow with Murray in the ring but they are general: he is never corrected in the ring, and he is always rewarded after his run. From the time he exits his crate until his post-run party, Murray is 100% right. Any mistakes are mine, and can be improved upon in a class setting– not at a show site. The parameters that I set for myself and my dog ensure fun trials, weekend after weekend.

Although the first definition of a “champion” is one who defeats others and wins; a champion is also a synonym for an advocate. Therefore, our dogs can be Champions — in the Show, Obedience, and Agility rings — but we can also be champions for our dogs. Throughout this issue, you will see examples of all kinds of champions: newly minted GCh Mack McNutt and C-ATCH2 Biscuit Santana, champions for canine health — such as Dr. Jean Dodds, who has been constantly pushing the envelope to make vaccination protocols as safe as possible, and those who champion change in the ring, as **Tawn Sinclair** writes about in her Obedience News column. Most notably, we honor **Inez Post** in **Diana Kerew-Shaw's** recap of Top Dog; Inez truly was a champion for the sport of Obedience in the Southern California area by her success, sportsmanship, and longevity in the sport. I have made many mistakes in training Murray — some of which still linger — but I do my best to champion for him in the agility ring.

This is my first issue of WLAOTC News as Editor; I hope to be able to serve the Club to the same high standard of previous editors. I would also like to welcome three new contributors to *West L.A. News*. Diana Kerew-Shaw has retired from the position of Obedience News columnist after six years of writing fantastic articles for this publication; Tawn Sinclair will now be contributing in this role. **Toby Mouchette** will be reinvigorating News of You; be sure to submit all your life's goings-on– human or canine. **Sara Woolverton** will be curating a new section, Agiliteeny & Obedieentsy– over the coming year, WLAOTC instructors will be contributing to this section with obedience and agility exercises that can be done in L.A.-sized yards and living rooms.

I hope that you enjoy this issue, and welcome feedback and suggestions to further make this publication a reflection of the membership, to highlight the amazing things that our members do with their dogs, and to provide a source of noteworthy news, education, and information about the happenings in the dog world.

—Tamar Fuhrer (all.murrican@gmail.com)



Conformation News

- Aljean Harmetz

Note from Aljean:
 This was sent to Jason Harmetz by his friend, Zippy Runquist.
 Jason was sure that readers of the West L.A. News would want
 To read it. [by Lisa Runquist & Zippy; written by Zippy]

No Agility. Not even any Obedience! But I DID get to go back into the Conformation ring for the first time in **four** years. Mom has been putting me in cords for the better part of two years. She started with my bracelets and tail, then my head, then decided to have me grow a corded jacket, and finally added the poufs on my butt. Not sure I like those, and the jacket does get hot, but it was fun to go back into the Conformation ring again. I guess I am really a show girl at heart.



Lisa & Zippy win a Group 1 Owner-Handler placement.
 Photo Credit: Rich Bergman.

On Saturday I was just warming up, and I did get Select, but nothing major. Sunday, I got Best of Opposite Sex (shoulda gotten the Breed, but considering that most judges have never seen a dog in cords, I guess I did okay). They also had a Best in Show just for Owner-Handlers. Since mom and I were the top Owner-Handler in Standard Poodles (well, probably the only Owner-Handler); we got to compete there as well. I did really good, even though by that time it was LATE, and we got a Group 1 Owner-Handler! Woo Hoo! Mom was very proud of me. We then got to go back into the ring for Best in Show for Owner-Handlers, where I got beaten out by a Maltese. But the judge looked very carefully at me, and came back and looked at me again before giving it to the Maltese, so I felt good about that, too.

Anyway, I keep telling Mom I will never get my MACH if we spend our free time doing Conformation, but I guess if I can win it's not too bad.

Love to you all,
 Zippy

P.S. Lisa adds "Zippy now has eleven points towards her Grand Championship (including two Major wins)—all owner-handled and in cords!"



Photo credits (L to R): Lisa Runquist, Sunshine Portraits, Lisa Runquist.

Obedience News

- Tawn Sinclair

So What Just Is It About the Groups?

It's just Stays— or is it?

I was one of eight anxious exhibitors who commanded and signaled our dogs to “Sit!,” then “Stay,” and proceeded to march across the ring. We followed the ring steward to our “out of sight” station, where we would remain for three eternally long minutes. The tension was palpable, with a couple of exhibitors looking at their watches, some making nervous conversation, and one woman muttering under her breath, in German, in the general direction of her dog, as if he could absorb her commands by ESP. So began the dreaded out-of-sight Sit-Stay. After two minutes, the ring steward glanced at me sympathetically and said, “Your dog is down.” In horror, I looked around and behind me, surely she could not be talking to me, it had to be somebody near me! Tuffie was having her best performance ever in the Open ring, actually headed for first place—she could not possibly have gone down! The oft heard “but she never does that” fell from my lips.

Nothing in Obedience causes more controversy and emotion than the subject of the Group Stays (except, perhaps, for the “ear pinch,” of which Diana Kerew-Shaw has already written about so eloquently). What is it about this exercise that elicits such strong feelings?

First of all, Stays are *hard*. Teaching a truly reliable Stay is a subject of its own, but the controversy does not come from the degree of difficulty—it comes because of the perceived danger, some of it very real and some of it exaggerated, that arises from leaving your dog in a Group of other dogs while you walk away and leave them unattended and unprotected.

AKC recently released the recommendations of this year’s Obedience Advisory Committee, and while most of the proposed changes have resulted in their own share of comments, both positive and negative, the recommended changes in how Group Stays should be performed has generated the most discussion and argument by far.

Since the beginning of competitive Obedience, Novice Group exercises have consisted of a one-minute Sit-Stay and a three-minute Down-Stay, while the handlers remain across the ring from the line-up of dogs. The Open Group exercises have consisted of a three-minute Sit-Stay and a five-minute Down-Stay, while the handlers leave the ring and go behind a screen, out of the dogs’ sight.

The new recommendations would result in drastic changes to Groups. In Novice, there would be only one Group exercise, consisting of a one-minute Sit *or* Down, the position being the judge’s choice and being performed on leash. The other Group Stay would be replaced by an additional exercise. In Open, there would also be only one Group Stay for a period of three minutes, the position (sit or down) being at the judge’s discretion. Leashes would remain on the dogs allowing for easier retrieval if a dog should break the Stay. The current second Group Stay would be replaced with a Stand-Stay exercise, in which the handler retrieves their leash and returns to the dog. This would be similar to the current Sit-Stay exercise performed in Excellent Rally.

The hue and cry resulting from these proposed changes has been tumultuous, with the status quo enthusiasts insisting that the



Photo Credit: Dawn Armstrong.

Obedience News

- Tawn Sinclair

changes would be “dumbing down” Obedience and would, in effect, “ruin” the sport. Conversely, others will not be satisfied until the Stays are abolished completely, as they feel the risk to the safety of their dog is simply not worth it. This same group is adamant in their belief that one of the primary reasons that the decline in Obedience competitors is directly linked to the reluctance of competitors subjecting their dogs to Group Stays.

AKC is hoping to satisfy the “no Group Stays” crowd with the introduction of the “Preferred Classes.” These would have the same exercises as the current regular classes, but competitors would not be required to perform the Group exercises. Participants would be able to attain a Preferred Championship (POCH) by accumulating points in the same manner as the current Obedience Master title.

So just how dangerous are the Group Stays? In 2009, AKC conducted a year-long survey, requiring Obedience judges to record every incident that occurred during the Group exercises. While the specific data was never published, AKC reported that the incidence of dog-on-dog attacks were extremely rare, occurring less than one-percent of the time. While I have personally only observed one fight during a Group, it was a severe one with four large male dogs involved. Although that was the only attack I have observed, I have witnessed several occasions in which dogs got up from their Stay positions and menaced, humped, or attempted to engage other dogs in play. This frequently results in the affected dogs having significant issues with Group Stays thereafter.

Until now, AKC has made small changes to try to make the Group Stays safer. In 2010, AKC began allowing, but not requiring, clubs to arrange entries in order of jump height. Theoretically, this would reduce the probability that your Pomeranian will be performing its Stays next to a Great Dane. In Southern California, Jack Bradshaw has not made that change, although many independent Obedience clubs do. In the same year, it became mandatory that a dog leaving its place during the first Stay be excused from performing the second part of the Stays. AKC also mandated that judges excuse a dog that appears to be a threat to other dogs, or that appears to be out of control. The judge does not have to wait for an incident to actually occur in order to excuse such a dog. Lastly, the distance between dogs has been extended to a minimum of four feet *between* each dog, not a dog every four feet. While you could once have up to twelve dogs at a time participating in a Group exercise, the new rule has reduced that to eight or nine at a time.

So will we be seeing these drastic changes take place, or not? It is difficult to say. Past recommendations of the Obedience Advisory Committee have frequently fallen by the wayside and never been implemented. Once the fancy is allowed to comment on proposed changes, the status quo people are often the noisiest. These same individuals bemoan the decline of Obedience entries but see no need to change “the way we’ve always done it.” We should know sometime this winter. Stay tuned!



Photo Credit: Kitty Jones.

News of You

- Toby Mouchette

Jane Barack writes:

Introducing “Flower” (D’Gani Love in Bloom), born Aug. 2, 2014. This beautiful white Standard Poodle, bred by Diane Trigani of D’Gani Standard Poodles in Florida, joined our family in October. Her big sister, “Lulu” (Ch Pinafore Skip to My Lou), will be four years old in December. Flower & Lulu play together all the time and provide us with lots of laughs. Flower will soon enroll in puppy classes at WLAOTC. Although I am currently concentrating on Lulu’s Agility classes and competitions, I will not rule out Agility for Flower sometime in the future.



Photo Credit: Jane Barack.

Flower (right) learning the ropes from big sister, Lulu (left).

Congrats to newly minted Grand Champion, Mack, who earned this prestigious title at the South Bay Kennel Club show on August 9, 2014, where he also took Best of Breed. Mack would now like you to refer to him as GCh Ch Shoreline’s Way Too Tuff BN CD RAE MX MXJ T2B. **Robyn McNutt** showed Mack to both his Championship and Grand Championship as an Owner-Handler. He joins the ranks of his brother, Nico (Ch Shoreline Guinness for Barkee BN CD RAE MX MXJ) as an Owner-Handler Champion. His momma, Tuffie (owned by **Tawn Sinclair**), is very proud of him too! Robyn says “thanks, Tawn, for the most excellent dogs ever! I just love them!”



Photo Credit: Robyn McNutt.

Robyn and Mack McNutt celebrating Mack’s GCh.

Greetings all and welcome to our “new and improved” **News of You**. This column is still the place to share important life events and news of family, but I’m hoping to expand the scope to include things of general interest. For example, have you read a good book or discovered a website you think others would enjoy? How about a dog-friendly restaurant, recipe or vacation spot? I look forward to hearing from you soon!

Please feel free to submit to **News of You** by e-mailing me at: tobiwan1836@gmail.com.

—Toby Mouchette, **News of You** Editor

News of You

- Toby Mouchette

Crystal Santana shares:

At the Club's May CPE Trials, Biscuit the Great earned her C-ATCH title — in less than two years after making her debut at the Club's 2012 May CPE Trials. Just five months later, she became C-ATCH2 Biscuit at the Fun Paws Agility Club's October CPE Trial in Elk Grove, California.

Biscuit has had to overcome some obstacles along the way—and we're not talking about teeters or weave poles! Only four months after her agility debut, Biscuit's agility career almost ended. Unbeknownst to me, Biscuit had been swallowing bits of fuzz off her tennis balls. The fuzz accumulated over the course of seven years, causing a horrible obstruction that began at her stomach and extended throughout the entire length of her intestines. After a week in the hospital and a very expensive surgery, Biscuit was out of danger. Once she recovered, she returned to agility — and with the obstruction removed, Biscuit was running faster and earning Qs at a higher rate than ever.

Since that health obstacle, Biscuit and I have been competing twice a month, either in CPE or AKC. I even set up a mini Agility course in the living room, and Biscuit practices daily (but only because of all the tasty treats)! Biscuit is now nearing her C-ATCH3, and will continue working toward her MACH.

At age ten, Biscuit is still going strong, perhaps slowing down a hair, but still running with a light heart and happy feet!



C-ATCH Biscuit and Judge Anna Mitter

Photo Credit: Joe Santana.



C-ATCH2 Biscuit and Judge Mike Brownell.

Photo Credit: Susanne Howarth.



Photo Credit: Claudine Armand.

Claudine Armand writes:

Everyone is growing! Dominic has started Kindergarten at Le Lycee Francais de Los Angeles. He gets to wear a uniform and looks like a little businessman. He is still playing soccer, has started learning to read music on the piano, and now takes karate at school.

Rocco is now six-and-a-half, and we have started competing in AKC Agility, where we have advanced to the Excellent level in both Jumpers with Weaves and Standard. We are enjoying working on our drive with **Melissa Henning** (it's a highlight of my Tuesdays off). I think Rocco misses Dominic being home on Wednesdays, and is definitely happy to take his walks after we get home from school.

We're looking forward to the year ahead and all that it will bring.

News of You

- Toby Mouchette

Gabrielle de Benedictis writes:

Jade and Remy enjoyed their Thanksgiving time along the south fork of the Santa Ana River. They certainly give thanks for the birds and the beasts! Jade learned to dig transects to follow the gophers and muskrats, and Remy practiced his new-found skill of river crossing — over and over again. (see photo below)



(Right, from top): Dylan (owned by **Aljean Harmetz**) and Murray (owned by **Tamar Fuhrer**) get into the holiday spirit at the Happy Dog Agility USDAA trial over Thanksgiving weekend; **Tawn Sinclair** and Kelsey earn their MACH on September 21 at the Southern California Collie Club in Camarillo, California.

I Recall Woodley Park in the Fall

Photographs by Pamela Marks

Several WLAOTC club members attended the Agility Fun Run held at Woodley Park in November. Photographer Pamela Marks of Paw Prince Studios happened to be photographing that day, and captured a few of our own dogs enjoying a harvest-themed frolic.



Clockwise, from top left: **Marta Rallis'** Nigel, the most-decorated Agility Sussex Spaniel in AKC history, was invited to the Eukanuba/AKC Agility Invitational for the third straight year; **Andree Armand's** Puli, Mischka, and his two-legged cousin, six-year-old Dominic, who was very excited to be featured in a "magazine shoot" (*ed note: Dominic is shown with his fur-brother, Rocco, on page seven*); Golden Retriever Buddy's dad, **Ed Baughn**, has said that he is very busy "practicing, practicing, and practicing."

Black Friday Practicourse

By Dawn Armstrong

The Black Friday Agility Practicourse was attended by non-shoppers and WLAOTC members. **Joan Miner** and **Ed Baughn** fueled up the crew with a pumpkin loaf and doughnuts. At 8:00 a.m., participants were already course-building; **Debra Murphy** served as judge and provided a nested Starters and Advanced USDAA course. There were so many of us that quick work was made of building the course, with **Jim Stevens** acting as chief course builder. These were two great courses with 17 obstacles each — thanks, Debra, for making us run off that turkey! The field was in good shape for a change, and the dogs ran fast. As an added benefit to the lack of dust, many a Thanksgiving Day-coiffed dog went home tired and still clean! We had 12 dogs and each got in four runs — all of that and we were packed up and headed home by 10:45 a.m.

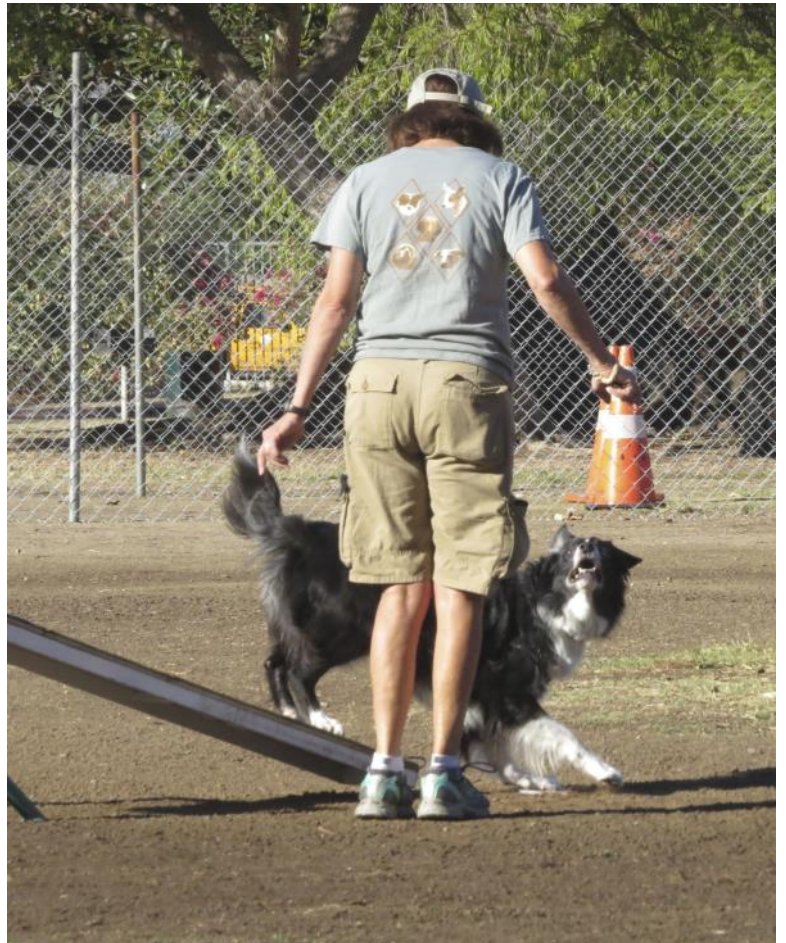


Clockwise, from top left: **Toby Mouchette** and All-American, Bee; **Robert Borunda** and Mini American Shepherd, Asia; Taj, Mini American Shepherd, handled by **Robert Borunda**; Gepetto, All-American, handled by **Dawn Armstrong**; Toby Mouchette and Drover, Brittany.

(All photos from this feature courtesy of Dawn Armstrong.)



Clockwise, from top left: Mocha Luna, Poodle, handled by **Joan Miner**; Maddie, All-American, handled by **Annette Gabele**; **Jim Stevens** and Tango, Golden Retriever; **Judy Sheller** and G'Day, Mini American Shepherd; **Carol Solomon** and All-American, Fiona.



More fun at the Black Friday Practicourse. Clockwise, from top left: Golden Retriever Buddy, handled by **Ed Baughn**; Geppetto Armstrong and Maddie Gabele relax between runs; **Nancy Lovendosky** and Dashiell, Border Collie; Judge **Debra Murphy** sneaks in a run with Cardigan Welsh Corgi, Kelyn.

Mikey Qualifies for AKC Obedience Classic

By Judith Brecka

Editor's note: Staffordshire Bull Terrier, Mikey (Daydream Talk Dirty to Me UD OM1 RE MX AXJ), and his handler, Judith Brecka, will be competing in the AKC National Obedience Classic in Orlando, Florida, on December 13-14. This event will be held in conjunction with the Eukanuba Dog Show (Conformation) and Agility Invitational. They have also qualified for and will be competing at the National Obedience Invitational (NOI) in March 2015. Judith Brecka has graciously described Mikey's journey to qualify for the Obedience Classic. Good luck and have fun, Judith!

To qualify for the AKC Classic in Utility, Mikey had to earn six qualifying scores in Utility. To qualify for the Masters competition, which is a combination of Utility and Open exercises, dogs had to earn six scores in Utility and Open of 193 or better (a qualifying score is a 170). Most of Mikey's qualifying scores were 195 to 197.5. Although Mikey qualified in both Utility and Masters, he will be competing only in Utility at the Classic. I do not believe I have the stamina to show a dog in competition six times in one day and then three times the following day. I am working to build our stamina, and if all goes well we will be competing at the NOI in March 2015 at Purina Farms.

Mikey will be shown in Utility twice on Saturday, December 13, and once on Sunday, December 14. To familiarize Mikey with the venue, we will also compete in the Orlando Dog Training Club's pre-Classic trials on Thursday, December 11, in Open B and Utility B. Mikey and I are hoping for three qualifying scores at the NOC.

Most of the dogs competing at the Classic will be from the Sporting and Herding groups, whereas Mikey is in the Terrier group. We will be staying at a resort with two people from California and their dogs; Mikey's mates will be a Papillon and a Corgi. He knows both of these dogs from Obedience trials. Most small dogs want to be next to Mikey in groups.

Mikey has been getting chiropractic treatments for his back, and he's now in good shape. He had to have emergency surgery, however, on his right eye on November 19 to repair a corneal abrasion that did not heal correctly. His surgeon says, "Mikey should be able to compete at the trials locally in December and the Classic, and will not be excused for missing a signal."

This will be Mikey's second airplane ride as a service dog. He slept through our first long trip. Patti Rovtar is driving to Orlando with her Rottweiler, Chili, and will bring with her Mikey's big crate and Sharkey, his pet shark. Mikey likes to use Sharkey as a pillow.



Photo Credit: Gwen Fiorito.



Photo Credit: Robert Moray.



Photo Credit: Robert Moray.

WLAers Honor Inez Post at Top Dog

By Diana Kerew-Shaw

Top Dog is an annual obedience tournament, hosted by the Southern California Dog Obedience Council. This group, a coalition of all the area training clubs, was founded over 50 years ago, to promote communication within the obedience community. Every year, it hosts this tournament, which is a chance for all of the clubs to get together, have a friendly “go” at each other, and hang out and socialize. Bragging rights — along with a humongous trophy — goes to the best team of the day, but it’s the spirit of camaraderie that prevails and makes the event special.

Although the sport of Obedience has lost participation over the last decade, and the number of Council member clubs has dwindled from 25 to 15, this is still a vibrant and lively day. For those readers unfamiliar with the format, it goes like this: Every club fields a team of at least six participants. There are two dogs for each regular class: Novice, Open and Utility. Usually, there is an alternate for each class, as well, to protect against unforeseen circumstances that might keep a team member from competing. There are two rings and two judges for each class level, and each dog on the team competes in a different ring. When all have been judged, the highlight of the day arrives: the potluck lunch. Everyone relaxes, eats, and visits from set-up to set-up. At the end of the lunch period, the four highest-scoring dogs in each class are announced. These dogs go on to compete for individual awards by going back into the ring to strut their stuff a second time. At last, when all have been judged, the scores are announced. There are placements, first through fourth, for the individual awards at each class level, with beautiful rosettes and lots of shouting and cheering. Then, the big wins are announced: the four highest placing teams, announced by their cumulative scores. The teams with the most consistent performances tend to be the winners; it’s not so much about achieving a perfect score in an individual run, as it is about everyone qualifying. To get an idea of how difficult this is, this year the second-place team had three clean runs out of six entries.

Every participant gets a bar pin with “Top Dog” emblazoned on it; for each year an exhibitor competes, s/he gets a bar with the appropriate year. As the years accumulate, the pin gets longer and longer. It’s a symbol of a handler’s consistently successful training, and worn with pride.

WLAOTC has a long and illustrious history with the annual Top Dog competition, going back to the very beginning, and it has won the big trophy three times. Recent years have not been quite as successful, but all who compete have enjoyed it. In 2013, we did not have a team, chiefly because we had been tasked with taking care of ring set-up and grounds, and the venue was 70 miles away. This meant that the crew had to travel to the site at the crack of dawn, and there were not enough people to handle both the work and a team. So 2014 was our Comeback Year.

And come back, we did. Our last two outings had been less than successful, and the WLA team had scored near the bottom of the heap. This year, we vowed, would be different. Our team was comprised of the following members:

Sharisse Chavez and her Doberman, Sierra: Novice
Diana Kerew-Shaw (co-captain) and her Papillon, Cutter: Novice
Casey Cantrell and her Curly-Coated Retriever, Bounce: Open
Tawn Sinclair (co-captain) and her Keeshond, Kelsey: Open
Judith Brecka and her Staffordshire Bull Terrier, Mikey: Utility
Tawn Sinclair and her Keeshond, Tuffie: Utility

The venue, which circulates from club to club, was in Escondido this year at the Hidden Valley Obedience Club facility. Since it’s a drive of over two hours for us WLAers, the Club agreed to pay for hotel rooms so that we could travel down the night before. We met at the site the afternoon before, staked out our space and planned for our easy-ups. It was blazing hot, with more of the same predicted for show day, and there were no trees, so any shade cover had to be man-made.

We had our ups and downs in the ring, but on the whole we were happy with our performance, especially when Casey and Bounce made it into the afternoon round. We also had some drama, in that Sharisse and Sierra should have made it to the afternoon round, as well. It wasn't until after the entire competition was over and we got our individual score cards that we discovered there had been a transcription error and Sierra had been erroneously dinged 30 points for failing the Long Sit. Although it was too late for them to compete, the points were restored to the team total.

When the scores were all in, we found that we had placed eighth out of 15 teams. This huge improvement was especially gratifying because we had dedicated our performance to our recently deceased member, **Inez Post**. Inez had been a member of the Top Dog team with her Shelties for more years than I can remember. I know that when I joined WLAOTC in 1993, she was on the team. It didn't matter which of her wonderful dogs she was currently training — she always made it to the individual rounds. Inez was a wonderful trainer: quiet, steady, and always successful. She had the first OTCH dog in our Club; she trained alone, paid no attention to new-fangled training fads, and just kept doing what she knew how to do best: get the most out of her dogs, and spend quality time with them. With her devoted husband, Bob, who pre-deceased her by just a couple of months, she was a fixture on the show circuit and a tireless worker for the Club. She never raised her voice, never made waves, but always acted with integrity and honesty. I don't think it's possible to find a single person in the Obedience community who would say one negative word about her, and she is deeply missed.

Inez, this one was for you.



WLAOTC dedicates this year's performance in loving memory of Inez Post: Lifetime Member, Brilliant handler, Veteran Top Dog participant.

Inez loved Bob, her Shelties and the Sport of Obedience.

She will be deeply missed.



Agiliteeny & Obedieentsy

- Sara Woolverton

This series will give handlers an opportunity to practice discrete handling skills, or learn new Obedience tricks, in small spaces. The equipment required will usually be minimal, and handlers will sometimes need to modify the setup for their spaces and equipment (for instance, by shortening the distances or perhaps practicing only a part of the drill). Remember to work for no more than five or ten minutes at a time so that your dog doesn't fatigue or burn out on the exercise. If you're both not having fun, you're not doing it right!

This month's exercise for tiny yards (or big living rooms) is an agility exercise on Pinwheels, provided by WLAOTC agility instructor **Danielle Dumais**. Pinwheels are commonly found in competitive Agility courses and the exercise of sending (rather than leading) the dog to an obstacle can be generalized to other obstacle formations. These drills are for the advanced beginner level and higher, and require three jumps.

Set your jumps up in a classic 3 leg pinwheel formation, with six to ten feet of striding space between them (see Figure 1). The purpose of the exercise is to send your dog to the second jump without crossing the plane of jumps 1 and 3.

Begin by standing six to ten feet in front of jumps 1 and 3 with your dog on your left. Begin running with your dog toward jump 1. As your dog takes the first jump, you will use your left hand to push on the takeoff side of jump 2 while giving your command to take the jump (see Figure 2). Toss your toy or treat bag on the landing side of jump 2, and praise your dog enthusiastically for taking this jump. Hang back as much as possible, but move as far into the space as you need to for your dog to successfully take the second jump.

Once your dog has successfully taken that second jump a few times, begin slowing down your run so that you are sending your dog over jump 2 from behind the plane of jumps 1 and 3. If your dog has been well rewarded for taking the second jump, and you slowly increase the distance between you and the second jump, she should ultimately be willing to do this without you being right by her side.

Having mastered the send to the second jump, you can complete the pinwheel. You will now send to jump 2, then as your dog lands, turn and (keeping your dog on your left) call your dog over jump 3 while moving away from the jump in the direction you want your dog to run (see Figure 3). This time, throw your toy or treat bag approximately six feet in front of jump 3. Practice this sequence of three jumps until your dog feels confident with the series and you can comfortably handle it without going into the middle space. Once both of you are comfortable with the left side lead, lead it in the other direction with the dog on your right.

More advanced teams can try adding a front cross between jumps 2 and 3 to get the dog on your right side. For another variation, if you have additional equipment (like a tunnel), you can have your dog take the extra obstacles before going into the pinwheel so that the pinwheel becomes part of a larger sequence.

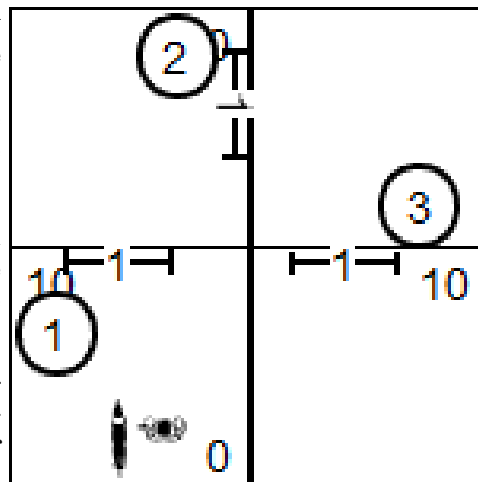


Figure 1: Drill Set-up.

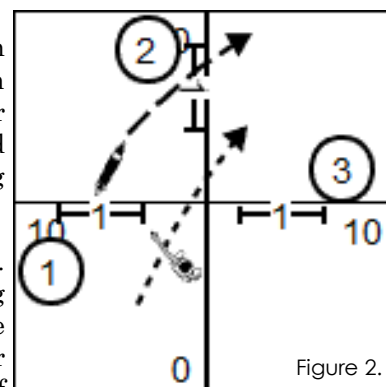


Figure 2.

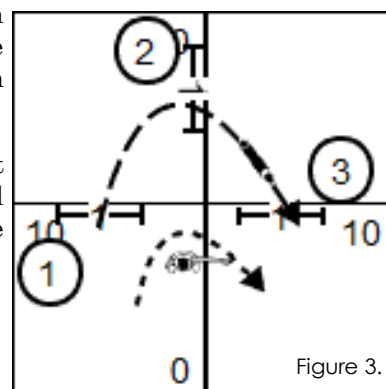


Figure 3.

A Look Into the BARK Reading Program

By Janet Brown and Joel Korotzer

On most Wednesday afternoons, Banjo and Jimi don their royal blue bandanas and head to the John Muir Elementary School library in Santa Monica. There, they work as therapy dogs as part of the Beach Animals Reading with Kids (BARK) program. Founded in 2007 by Josie Gavieres, BARK is an all-volunteer program that helps children improve their reading skills and gain self-confidence by reading aloud to certified therapy dogs. Dogs interested in participating in the program need to have passed the AKC Canine Good Citizen exam (CGC), and then pass a BARK evaluation, with elements similar to the Pet Partners assessment.

A 2010 UC-Davis study showed that kids in reading dog programs increase their reading skills by 12% to 20% over kids not in a reading dog program. Educators who have worked with BARK report 88% of BARK students increased their reading skills, self-confidence and/or class participation.

Each child generally participates in a weekly 15-minute session for eight weeks. During the first session, the children are given a bookmark with their reading companion's bio on it. Each week the kids' "paws" are stamped and they receive a dog sticker to take home. At the end of the eight-week session, they are given a BARK stuffed animal and a book. For many, this gift of a book is the beginning of a treasured library collection.

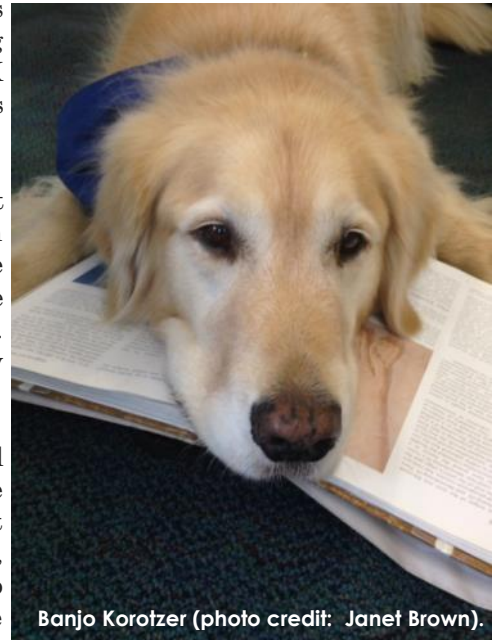
Banjo began working with BARK in 2009. **Joel Korotzer**, a retired pediatrician, enjoys working with BARK because he finds children to be totally genuine and open, and love the presence of the dog. Joel says "It takes only a few sessions for the kids to be reading to the dog, occasionally showing Banjo pictures in the books, and asking if Banjo understands the stories. It is so rewarding to see that the children are helped to embark on a lifelong love of reading after a less promising, or difficult start in the judgmental atmosphere of the classroom." Joel and Banjo love it when kids from other classes working in the library mob Banjo after he finishes working with the readers. He has had as many as five kids laying on top of him and scratching his tummy.

Jimi began working with BARK in 2013. "I wanted to become involved with a reading program," **Janet Brown** explained, "because I believe that reading is a critical skill for children to master. And I hope to inspire a love of reading that will be a lifelong passion. What better way to practice reading than cuddling up with a friendly, warm Labrador? It has been very rewarding to see the children progress from week to week. Even after their session is over, the BARK kids love to drop by to say 'hello' to their reading buddy Jimi, and to talk about new books they are reading."

This fall, NBC featured a segment about BARK reading teams. All of the dogs and children had a great time with their 15 minutes of fame and the segment received tons of positive feedback.

<http://www.nbclosangeles.com/on-air/as-seen-on/278976421.html>

For more information about the BARK program, visit www.barkdogs.com.



Banjo Korotzer (photo credit: Janet Brown).



Jimi Brown (photo credit: Janet Brown).

Competition Obedience and The Meaning of Life

By Judith Lewis Mernit

“Where is the meaning? *Where is the meaning?*” My friend Phoebe is pacing around the room, apoplectic, demanding justification for my obsession with dogs. I understand her dismay: I used to have time for other activities. I used to be able to pack up with 48 hours notice and disappear for a couple of weeks on a canoe trip; I used to lead full-moon hikes. I traveled, I went to yoga class, I could spend a weekend in the desert staring at sand and be perfectly content.

Everyone I know in the performance dog world has their version of this: “Before dogs,” one woman told me, “I was a great skier.” Or, “before dogs, we went to Europe every year.” Before dogs I had more friends, more work, a fuller life among humans. Before dogs, I stayed out late.

It’s not that I didn’t have hobbies before; I did, big ones, involving outrigger canoes and static trapezes. But the old pursuits all tapered off within four or five years. Training dogs has been different. I’ve been working with Thomas now going on eight years, competing in the ring with him for six. Five years ago I took on Tabitha, then a gangly three-month-old Pit Bull, and I’m now showing her in Utility, too, where her excessive enthusiasm compensates, with the crowd if not the judge, for her lack of accuracy.

Seeing no end to any of this, my friend puts her foot down. “It’s time,” she declares soundly, “for you to be doing something else.”

I could have sloughed off this comment, I suppose, had it not conspired with the voice in my own head nagging the same complaint — that I’m wasting time, that I ought to be contributing to the betterment of the world in some more concrete way. If you have any kind of social conscience or sense of responsibility to our wounded planet, the single-minded intensity of dog training can leave you with the heavy guilt of misspent days. (I can see it now, my dismal epitaph: “While the climate changed, she ran around with dogs.”) Competition Obedience is a costly time sink, and its rewards are strange and mercurial. You can’t count on this sport to make you happy all the time, or even most of the time. It most certainly won’t make you rich, even if you’re really, really good at it, which I am not.

But oh, the joy, the joy! The absolute, pure and unreasonable satisfaction that comes with completing an assigned task in the Obedience ring with any dog, let alone a Terrier. A few weeks ago, Thomas and I were at a show where the ring was oddly non-square; its center was between two posts. A lot of dogs couldn’t find glove two on the Directed Retrieve, nor could they find the place they needed to run to before Directed Jumping. And yet Thomas, whose go-outs are generally weak, ran straight to that mysterious center and sat the instant I asked. He had no trouble with the glove, either, and



Photo Credit: Robert Moray

because Thomas feeds on my sincere and soaring happiness — success begets success — he excelled, in his Terrier way, at everything else. Thomas, when pleased with himself — when he's found the toy he was looking for, when he catches his flying disc — emits a funny little satisfied snort. That Saturday, I heard the snort during the fast portion of Heeling.

"Thomas is peaking," I told my husband Billy when I got home, and I meant it. His Heeling was getting better with every trial, and our scores, which have long been stunningly low — "squeakers," as judges like to call them — were nudging up into the higher 180s and even, a few weeks ago, the low 190s. We got nine Obedience Master points. I wasn't having to work so hard to keep him focused; our celebrations between exercises were mutual and honest.

Someday I will grasp that these trends don't always last. But in that moment, it was as if I had bored a little tunnel through the miasma that separates humans from other species. It was a tunnel only the diameter of a straw, but enough that I could look through and detect his little flash of confidence as he decided on the right scent article; I could see as he responded to my signals his own pride at reading me right. We were connected, in some small but profound way, this odd little creature I pulled from a rescue eight years ago, and me, a woman whose life began to turn around on that July evening in 2006 when I took him to Tawn Sinclair's Novice Obedience class in West Los Angeles, and began training him, with a clicker and food, to look me in the eye. He used to bolt out of class at the slightest frustration, and he refused to let me catch him. But now he stands across the ring from me waiting, with bright expectation, for me to raise my arm in the Down signal.



Photo Credit: John Oshiro.

Mostly he does, anyway. Sometimes he gets itchy, as he did a few days ago, and forgets to look, and misses a signal. Then he feels bad, and I feel bad, and he feels bad that I feel bad, and everything goes to hell. Thomas lags behind in heeling; he panic shops and grabs the wrong Article. Gloves get delivered to the judge; sits, fronts and finishes disappear. I try to divine why: Did the neighborhood fireworks last night ruin his sleep? Did we train too much? Or did the moment of itching just rattle his confidence?

I don't know; I will never know. What I do know, though, is that this is not a trend, either. We have been here before, and we will get back, to that place of transcendent understanding we both fight so hard to find. Maybe it isn't world-changing. Maybe it doesn't have to be. Wrapped up as we are in our anthropocentric lives, where our movie animals have to speak our languages, I think there's a kind of grace in our learning to speak theirs. I am happy enough to live now and then in that.

This article was originally published on Five Stations of the Dog, Judith Lewis Mernit's personal blog about competing in Obedience with her Cairn Terrier, Thomas, and American Staffordshire Terrier, Tabitha. Since the original publication in June 2014, Tabitha earned her Utility Dog (UD) title. Congratulations Judith and Tabitha! You can read Judith's other posts by visiting fivestationsdog.com.

Vaccine Titer Testing

By Dr. W. Jean Dodds, DVM

Editor's Note: Dr. W. Jean Dodds, DVM is the founder of Hemopet, the first non-profit national blood bank for animals, co-trustee of The Rabies Challenge Fund and a leader in establishing vaccine protocols for pets. She is well known for her minimum vaccine protocols. Dr. Dodds has received several awards from national sources for her work in the field of veterinary medicine, has served in leadership positions for veterinary and science organizations, and has developed eighteen patents related to veterinary diagnostics. We are fortunate to have Dr. Dodds as our January Membership Meeting speaker (to be held on January 20, 2015), where she will be presenting on vaccinations, vaccine titers, and new information about rabies vaccines. In advance of her presentation, she has submitted to us this article about vaccine titer testing.

Background

In response to pressing questions posed by veterinarians and the public, vaccine experts have recommended new protocols for dogs and cats. These include: 1) giving the puppy or kitten vaccine series followed by a booster at one year of age; 2) administering further boosters in a combination vaccine every three years or as split components alternating every other year, or, measuring serum vaccine titers instead of boosters, until; 3) the pet reaches geriatric age, at which time booster vaccination is usually unnecessary and may be unadvisable for those with aging or immunologic disorders. Vaccine titers can be offered instead of boosters every three years and should be measured in the case of geriatric pets, as an indication of the presence of immune memory.

Vaccine Titer Testing: Alternative to Booster Vaccination

Some veterinarians have challenged the validity of using vaccine titer testing to assess the immunologic status of animals against the common, clinically important infectious diseases.

With all due respect, this represents a misunderstanding of what has been called the "fallacy of titer testing," because research has shown that once an animal's titer stabilizes it is likely to remain constant for many years. Properly immunized animals have sterilizing immunity that not only prevents clinical disease but also prevents infection, and only the presence of antibody can prevent infection. As stated by eminent expert Dr. Ronald Schultz in discussing the value of vaccine titer testing, these tests "show that an animal with a positive test has sterilizing immunity and should be protected from infection. If that animal were vaccinated it would not respond with a significant increase in antibody titer, but may develop a hypersensitivity to vaccine components (e.g., fetal bovine serum). Furthermore, the animal doesn't need to be revaccinated and should not be revaccinated since the vaccine could cause an adverse reaction (hypersensitivity disorder). You should avoid vaccinating animals that are already protected. It is often said that the antibody level detected is "only a snapshot in time." That's simply not true; it is more a "motion picture that plays for years."

Furthermore, protection as indicated by a positive titer result is not likely to suddenly drop off unless an animal develops a medical problem such as cancer or receives high or prolonged doses of immunosuppressive drugs. Viral vaccines prompt an immune response that lasts much longer than that elicited by classic antigen. Lack of distinction between the two kinds of responses may be why practitioners think titers can suddenly disappear. Titers do not distinguish between immunity generated by vaccination and/or exposure to the disease, although the magnitude of immunity produced just by vaccination is usually lower.

But, not all vaccines produce sterilizing immunity. Those that do include: distemper virus, adenovirus, and parvovirus in the dog, and panleukopenia virus in the cat. Examples of vaccines that produced non-sterile immunity would be leptospirosis, bordetella, rabies virus, herpesvirus and calicivirus — the latter two being upper respiratory viruses of cats. While non-sterile immunity may not protect the animal from infection, it should keep the infection from progressing to severe clinical disease.

Therefore, interpreting titers correctly depends upon the disease in question. Some titers must reach a certain level to indicate immunity, but with other agents like those that produce sterile immunity, the presence of any measurable antibody shows protection. The positive titer test result is fairly straightforward, but a negative titer test result is more difficult to interpret, because a negative titer is not the same thing as a zero titer and it doesn't necessarily mean that animal is unprotected. A negative result usually means the titer has failed to reach the threshold of providing sterile immunity. This is an important distinction, because for the clinically important distemper and parvovirus diseases of dogs, and panleukopenia of cats, a negative or zero antibody titer indicates that the animal is not protected against canine parvovirus and may not be protected against canine distemper virus or feline panleukopenia virus.

When an adequate immune memory has already been established, there is little reason to introduce unnecessary antigen, adjuvant, and preservatives by administering booster vaccines. By titering triennially or more often, as needed, one can assess whether a given animal's humoral immune response has fallen below levels of adequate immune memory. In that event, an appropriate vaccine booster should be considered.

Finally, what does more than a decade of experience with vaccine titer testing reveal? Published studies in refereed journals show that 90-98% of dogs and cats that have been properly vaccinated develop good measurable antibody titers to the infectious agent measured.

In general, serum antibody titers to the "core" vaccines along with any natural exposures last a minimum of seven to nine years, and likely are present for life. This corresponds with what we see clinically as the number of cases and deaths due to these diseases has decreased in the vaccinated population. So, in contrast to the concerns of some practitioners, using vaccine titer testing as a means to assess vaccine-induced protection will likely result in the animal avoiding needless and unwise booster vaccinations.

Reasons for Vaccine Titer Testing: *

To determine that animal is protected (suggested by a positive test result).

To identify a susceptible animal (suggested by a negative test result).

To determine whether an individual animal has responded to a vaccine.

To determine whether an individual vaccine is effectively immunizing animals.

* from: Schultz RD, Ford RB, Olsen J, Scott F. Titer testing and vaccination: a new look at traditional practices. *Vet Med*, 97: 1-13, 2002

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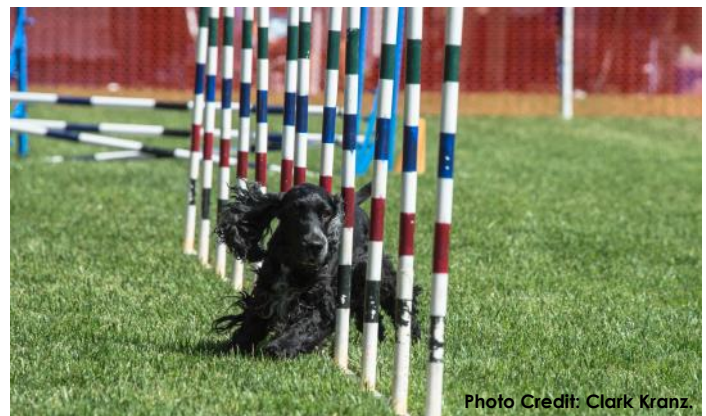
In Memorium: Spencer Crowder

C-ATCH ADCH U-ACH U-CD U-RO3 *Daisymead's Dressed to Kill* CD
RAE MX MXJ MXF MFB T2B CAA ExJP GCH-Bronze RAT-O

Spencer was only eight years old, and taken by cancer way too soon. In the beginning of July, he was diagnosed with intestinal cancer, and passed away in mid-August. He started out well with the treatment, but then took a quick downhill slide.

Spencer had great enthusiasm for every dog sport we tried, except Obedience. He only did that because I asked him to. All others he loved: Agility, Lure Coursing, and Barn Hunt (where he brought forth his inner terrier). He was also a ball playing fool.

- *Clydine Crowder*



Kibbles N Bits

OBEDIENCE WORKOUTS—Most Saturdays at 1:30 P.M., by the archery range/agility classes. Please bring a crate, x-pen, or friend to hold your dog while you are helping out in the ring. For further information, contact Nancy Lovendosky at nlovendosky@yahoo.com. Announcements will be posted via the WLAOTC Announcement List when workouts are cancelled for an upcoming Saturday. Call agility hotline (see below) to check on rain—if there is no agility, there is no workout.

AGILITY PRACTICE—Most Mondays, 8:30-9:30 A.M. Come 15 minutes early for set-up or stay late for teardown. Open to Club members whose dogs have taken 12 weeks of classes at any venue; current students who have completed two series of classes; and experienced handlers with advanced titles and new dogs. Dogs must be able to work around other off-leash dogs. For information, contact Aljean Harmetz at ajharm7707@aol.com.

Marie Eguro (ariton@att.net) is responsible for sending out cards to members. Please notify her of any member who may need correspondence such as a Get Well card, Sympathy card, etc. Thank you.

VISIT THE CLUB WEBSITE, www.wlaotc.com, for up-to-date information on classes and activities, list of Club videos, class registration, photos from past events, etc.

SCOREBOARD SUBMISSIONS for Newsletter: Please submit titles and qualifying scores. OBEDIENCE/RALLY—ssykes@mac.com; AGILITY and all other scores—ajharm7707@aol.com. Submitting your information in the format used in Scoreboard would be a big help. Please put “Scoreboard” in the subject line. Thank you.

NEWS OF YOU—Toby Mouchette loves to hear about your accomplishments, interesting stories and travels, new additions to your family (human or dog), etc. Email her at tobiwan1836@gmail.com.

JOIN THE WLAOTC YAHOO GROUPS—The announcement group is for information about upcoming events, classes, or other notices of interest to members. The discussion group allows for members to chat and exchange information. To join one or both of these groups, email Casey Cantrell—caseycantrell@ca.rr.com.

CLASS INFORMATION/RAIN—For agility class information, contact Cynthia Smith, wlaotcagility@gmail.com or call (310) 851-2121; for obedience classes, check registration information on the Club website, or call (310) 851-6350 to check rain-outs. Check your Club Roster for other important contact information.

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

We will not be having a December Membership Meeting. We will be holding our next membership meeting on Tuesday, January 20, 2015, with Dr. W. Jean Dodds as our speaker. Details and directions will be published in the January issue of *West L.A. News*.

Have a wonderful holiday season and a happy and healthy New Year. See you in 2015!

- West L.A. News Staff

Scoreboard

AKC OBEDIENCE

Kern County KC, 3/29-30

Robyn McNutt/Mack, Op A: 1st pl, 2nd leg

Hollywood Dog Obedience Club, 5/4

Judith Brecka/Mikey, Util B: 2nd pl; 4 OTCH pts.

Great Western Terrier Association, 6/19

Judith Brecka/Mikey, Util B: 1st pl; Op B: 1st pl;
UDX leg; HIT; HC; 2 OTCH pts.

KC of Beverly Hills, 6/28

Judith Brecka/Mikey, Util B: 3rd pl, Op B: 1st pl; HIT;
OTCH pts.
Sharisse Chavez/Sierra, Nov A: 1st pl, 1st leg

Long Beach KC, 6/29

Sharisse Chavez/Sierra, Nov A: 1st pl, 2nd leg

Channel City KC, 7/4

Sharisse Chavez/Sierra, Nov A: 2nd pl, 3rd leg

Pasanita Obedience Club, 10/26

Diana Kerew-Shaw/Cutter, Nov B: 2nd pl

Antelope Valley KC, 11/2

Sharisse Chavez/Sierra, Nov B: 1st pl

UKC OBEDIENCE

SLO Dog, 9/20-21

Diana Kerew/Cutter, Nov B: 1st pl, 1st leg; Nov B:
1st pl, 2nd leg; Nov B: 1st pl, 3rd leg

AKC CONFORMATION

Kern County KC, 3/29-30

Robyn McNutt/Mack, 2 Select Awards towards GCh

South Bay KC, 8/9

Robyn McNutt/Mack, BOB

IPO (f/k/a SCHUTZHUND)

United Doberman Club Nationals (5/17)

Steve Chavez/Fedor, IPO3: tracking 88, obedience 83,
protection 93; total 274, 2nd pl

AKC WC/WCX

Golden Retriever Club of America, 11/1

Jim Stevens/Ruby, WC

AKC AGILITY

Hollywood Dog Obedience Club, 3/22-23

Gabrielle de Benedictis/Jade, Nov B Std: 1st pl;
JWW: 1st pl

Joan Miner/Mocha Luna, Nov A Std: 2nd pl;
JWW: 1st pl

Toby Mouchette/Drover, Nov A Std: 1st pl
Debbie Pinthus/Caper, Nov B Std: 1st pl; JWW: 1st pl

Lisa Runquist/Zippy, Mast: Std: 3rd pl

Judy Sheller/Asia, Nov P Std: 2nd pl; JWW: 1st pl

Tri-Valley Shetland Sheepdog Club, 4/5-6

Carol Lyon/Windy, Ex Std: 1st pl; JWW: 1st pl

So Cal Portuguese Water Dog Club, 4/19-20

Jane Barack/Lulu, Op JWW: 1st pl; Ex JWW: 1st pl
Tamar Fuhrer/Murray, Mast Std: Q; JWW: Q; Dbl Q

Border Terrier Club of So Cal, 4/26-27

Joan Miner/Mocha Luna, Nov A JWW: 1st pl

Debbie Pinthus/Caper, Nov B Std: 1st pl; JWW: 1st pl

Hollywood Dog Obedience Club, 5/3-4

Jane Barack/Lulu. Ex Std: 1st pl

Gabrielle de Benedictis/Jade, Nov Std: 2nd pl;
JWW: 2nd pl

Joan Miner/Mocha Luna, Nov Std: 3rd pl

Toby Mouchette/Bee, Nov A Std: 1st pl, 1st pl;
JWW: 1st pl

Toby Mouchette/Drover, Nov A Std: 1st pl; JWW: 1st pl

Scoreboard

Simi Valley KC, 5/16-18

Claudine Armand/Rocco, Nov P JWW, 1st pl
Tamar Fuhrer/Murray, Mast Std: 3rd pl, Q; JWW:
3rd pl, Q; FAST: 2nd pl; Triple Q, Dbl Q
Aljean Harmetz/Dylan, Ex Std: 1st pl
Debbie Pinthus/Caper, Op JWW: 1st pl

San Gabriel KC, 5/22

Claudine Armand/Rocco, Nov P Std: 1st pl;
Op P JWW: 1st pl

KC of Pasadena, 5/31-6/1

Claudine Armand/Rocco, Nov P Std: 1st pl; Op P JWW:
1st pl
Jane Barack/Lulu, Ex JWW: 2nd pl, 1st pl
Tamar Fuhrer/Murray, Mast Std: Q, Q; JWW: Q, Q;
Dbl Q, Dbl Q

High Desert Agility Club, 6/8-9

Gabrielle de Benedictis/Jade, Nov B Std: 2nd pl,
Debbie Pinthus/Caper, Op Std: 1st pl

Contact Point Agility Club, 6/13

Lisa Runquist/Zippy, Mast Std: Q; Ex FAST, 1st pl

Papillon Club of So Cal 6/20-3

Tamar Fuhrer/Murray, Mast Std: 2nd pl; JWW: Q,
Dbl Q
Carol Lyon/Windy, Ex Std: 1st pl; JWW: 2nd pl

Samoyed Club of Los Angeles, 7/4-6

Debbie Pinthus/Caper, Op Std: 2nd pl; Ex Std: 1st pl;
JWW: 1st pl

Buenaventura Agility Club, 7/18-20

Jane Barack/Lulu, Ex Std: 1st pl, 2nd leg
Tamar Fuhrer/Murray, Mast Std: 2nd pl, 4th pl;
JWW: Q; Dbl Q
Aljean Harmetz/Dylan, Op FAST: 2nd pl, 1st pl

Agility Club of Santa Barbara, 7/26-27

Jane Barack/Lulu, Mast JWW: 2nd pl

Simi Valley KC, 8/1-3

Claudine Armand/Rocco, Op P Std: 1st pl,
JWW: 1st pl
Carol Lyon/Windy, Mast JWW: 1st pl

DASH, 8/9-10

Tamar Fuhrer/Murray, Mast Std: 4th pl, Q; JWW:
Q, Q; T2B: 2nd pl; Dbl Q; Dbl Q

Orange Coast Rhodesian Ridgeback Club, 8/23-24

Jane Barack/Lulu, Ex Std: 1st pl
Tamar Fuhrer/Murray, Mast Std: 4th pl, 4th pl; JWW:
4th pl, FAST: 4th pl; Triple Q

Golden Retriever Club of GLA, 9/1

Jane Barack/Lulu, Mast Std: Q

West Coast Cocker Spaniel Club, 9/6-7

Jane Barack/Lulu, Mast Std: Q
Tamar Fuhrer/Murray, Mast Std: 3rd pl, Mast JWW:
2nd pl, Q; Dbl Q
Aljean Harmetz/Dylan, Ex JWW: 1st pl; T2B: Q
Lucy Kluckhohn Jones/Hope, Mast P Std: Q, T2B P: Q

Hollywood Dog Obedience Club, 9/26-28

Claudine Armand/Rocco, Op P: 1st pl
Jane Barack/Lulu, Mast Std: 4th pl, 4th pl
Debbie Pinthus/Caper, Ex Std: 1st pl, JWW: 2nd pl

Simi Valley KC, 10/4-5

Debbie Pinthus/Caper, Ex JWW: 1st pl

DASH, 10/11-12

Tamar Fuhrer/Murray, Mast Std: Q; JWW: Q; T2B: Q;
ISC Std: 4th pl; JWW: 2nd pl

Samoyed Club, 10/18-19

Jane Barack/Lulu, Mast Std: Q

Golden State Rottweiler Club, 10/25-26

Jane Barack/Lulu, Mast Std: Q
Tamar Fuhrer/Murray, Mast JWW: 3rd pl; FAST: 2nd
pl; T2B: 2nd pl

Scoreboard

DACV/TVSSC, 11/7-9

Jane Barack/Lulu, Mast Std: Q
Tamar Fuhrer/Murray, Mast JWW: Q; ISC Std: 2nd pl

Keeshond Club of So Cal, 11/28-30

Jane Barack/Lulu, Mast Std: Q, Q; JWW: Q
Susan Cucura/Busy, Nov Std: 1st pl; JWW: 1st pl

Nancy Gast/Cannon, Mast Std: 4th pl, 3rd pl; JWW: Q,
Q; Dbl Q

Alan Izumi/Dandini, Nov FAST: 1st pl, 1st pl; EX A
Std: 1st pl, 1st pl; JWW: 1st pl

Robyn McNutt/Mack, Mast Std: Q, Q; JWW: Q; Dbl Q
Robyn McNutt/Nico, Mast P Std: Q, Q, Q; JWW: Q, Q,
Q; Dbl Q, Dbl Q, Dbl Q

Lisa Runquist/Zippy, Mast Std: Q, Q; JWW: Q; Dbl Q

CPE AGILITY

Agility Club of San Diego, 4/5-6

Crystal Santana/Biscuit, L5 Std: 1st pl; Colors: 1st pl,
2nd pl; Wildcard: 4th pl; Snkr: 2nd pl; Jackpot:
1st pl, 1st pl; FullHouse: 2nd pl; Jump: 2nd pl

Ups 'N Downs AC, 4/19-20

Claudine Armand/Rocco, L2 Std: 1st pl, 2nd pl; Full
House: 2nd pl
Tamar Fuhrer/Murray, L 4 Std: 1st pl, 3rd pl; L5 Full
House, 2nd pl; Colors: 4th pl

WLAOTC, 5/3-4

Claudine Armand/Rocco, L2 Jackpot: 1st pl;
Std: 2nd pl; FullHouse, 2nd pl; L3 Snkr: 2nd pl
Clydine Crowder/Diva, L4 Colors: 1st pl; L5 Snkr:
1st pl; Jump: 1st pl
Clydine Crowder/Spencer, LC Snkr: 1st pl, 1st pl;
Colors: 1st pl; FullHouse: 1st pl; Jump: 1st pl;
Std: 1st pl; Wildcard: 1st pl; Jackpot: 1st pl
Aljean Harmetz/Dylan, L3 Snkr: 1st pl; Colors: 1st pl;
Wildcard: 2nd pl
Aljean Harmetz/Jason, L5 Snkr: 2nd pl, 1st pl;
Jackpot: 2nd pl, 2nd pl; FullHouse: 1st pl
Debra Murphy/Kelyn, L1 Snkr: 1st pl; Colors: 1st pl;
FullHouse: 1st pl; L2 Jackpot: 1st pl; Std: 1st pl
Lisa Runquist/Jazzy, L4 Jackpot: 1st pl; Snkr: 1st pl;
FullHouse: 1st pl
Lisa Runquist/Zippy, L3 Jackpot: 1st pl; Colors: 1st pl

Crystal Santana/ Biscuit, L5 Std: 1st pl, 1st pl; Colors:
2nd pl; Wildcard: 2nd pl; Snkr: 1st pl, 3rd pl;
Jackpot: 3rd pl; FullHouse: 1st pl; Jump: 1st pl
Mike Savage/Marley, L1 Jackpot: 3rd pl; Std: 2nd pl;
Snkr: 1st pl; FullHouse: 2nd pl; Colors: 2nd pl
Judy Sheller/Asia, L4 Colors: 2nd pl; FullHouse: 2nd
pl; Snkr: 1st pl, 1st pl; Std: 1st pl, 1st pl;
Wildcard: 1st pl; Jackpot: 1st pl; Jump: 1st pl
Judy Sheller/Taj, L4 Colors: Q; Snkr: 2nd pl; Wildcard:
2nd pl

DASH, 9/13-14

Andree Armand/Mischka, L2 Jackpot: 2nd pl; L3 Std:
2nd pl; Jump: 3rd pl
Claudine Armand/Rocco, L3 Std: 2nd pl, 4th pl; Colors:
3rd pl; FullHouse: Q
Aljean Harmetz/Dylan, L3 Colors: 2nd pl; Wildcard:
3rd pl; FullHouse: 4th pl; L4 Std: 1st pl, 2nd pl;
Colors: 1st pl; Snkr: 1st pl, 1st pl; Jump: 2nd pl
Lucy Kluckhohn Jones/Hope, L4 Std: 1st pl, 2nd pl; L5
Colors: 1st pl; Wildcard: 4th pl; Snkr: 2nd pl,
2nd pl; FullHouse: 1st pl; Jump: 2nd pl

WLAOTC, 9/21

Claudine Armand/Rocco, L3 Jackpot: 2nd pl;
FullHouse: 3rd pl; Snkr: 1st pl; Wildcard:
2nd pl
Aljean Harmetz/Dylan, L4 Snkr: 2nd pl; FullHouse:
2nd pl; Jackpot: 2nd pl
Lucy Kluckhohn Jones/Hope, L5 Wildcard: 2nd pl;
Snkr: 1st pl; Jackpot: 2nd pl; FullHouse: 1st pl
Judy Sheller/Asia, L4 Snkr: 1st pl, 1st pl; Wildcard: 1st
pl; Jackpot: 4th pl
Judy Sheller/Taj, L4 Wildcard: 2nd pl; Jackpot: 1st pl

Ups 'N Downs, 11/1-2

Aljean Harmetz/Dylan, L4 Std: 1st pl, 1st pl; Colors:
1st pl; Wildcard: 2nd pl; Snkr: 1st pl; Jump:
2nd pl; FullHouse: 1st pl
Aljean Harmetz/Jason: L5 Snkr: 2nd pl, 2nd pl; Full
House: Q

Performance Dog Training, 11/28-30

Andree Armand/Mischka, L2 FullHouse: 4th pl; L3
Std: 1st pl, 1st pl; Jump: 1st pl
Claudine Armand/Rocco, L3 Std: 1st pl, 2nd pl; Snkr:
2nd pl; Wildcard: 1st pl; Jump: 2nd pl

Scoreboard

Chris Hilson/Sophie, L3 Wildcard: 2nd pl; L4 Std: 1st pl; Jump: 2nd pl
 Jaclyn Hilson/Jazzy, L2 Std: 1st pl; Jump: 1st pl; L3 Wildcard: 4th pl

USDAA AGILITY

Contact Point Agility Club, 3/1-2

Lucy Kluckhohn Jones/Hope, PIII Snkr: Q;
 Pairs: 1st pl

DART, 3/15

Lucy Kluckhohn Jones/Hope, PIII Snkr: Q

Happy Dog, 3/22-23

Kate Bernstrein/Oliver, DAM: Q
 Tamar Fuhrer/Murray, PVP: Q; PI Std: 1st pl; PII Std: 1st pl; Snkr: 1st pl
 Aljean Harmetz/Jason, Mast Snkr: Q
 Lucy Kluckhohn Jones/Hope, PVP: Q; Gamble: Q
 Judith Lewis/Tabitha, DAM: Q
 Judith Lewis/Thomas, DAM: 4th pl

DASH, 4/4-6

Tamar Fuhrer/Murray, PVP: Q; PGP: 2nd pl; Mast Challenge P Std: 1st pl; PII Gamble: 1st pl; Snkr: 2nd pl; PIII Jump: 1st pl
 Lucy Kluckhohn Jones/Hope, Grand Prix: 4th pl

DART REGIONAL, 4/25-27

Tamar Fuhrer/Murray, PVP: Q; PSJ Rd. 1: Q; PIII Jump: 3rd pl; Snkr: 1st pl. SQ
 Melissa Henning/Caper, Grand Prix: 1st pl; Steeplechase: 2nd pl
 Melissa Henning/Relay, Grand Prix: 2nd pl; Steeplechase: 1st pl, Biathlon: 1st pl
 Judith Lewis/Tabitha: MCS: Q
 Patsy McCulloch/Brinkley, PSJ: 1st pl

Happy Dog, 5/24-26

Tamar Fuhrer/Murray, PGP: 1st pl; PSJ Rd 1: 2nd pl; PVP: 3rd pl; PII Std: 1st pl, 2nd pl; Pairs: 1st pl, 1st pl; PIII Snkr: 1st pl, 1st pl, SQ
 Aljean Harmetz/Dylan, Start: Gamble, 1st pl

Carol Lyon/Windy, Adv Jump: 1st pl; Gamble: 1st pl; Snkr: 1st pl

Driven Dogs, 5/31

Aljean Harmetz/Dylan, Start Gamble: 1st pl; Adv Std: 1st pl
 Aljean Harmetz/Jason, PIII Snkr: Q

DASH, 6/28-9

Tamar Fuhrer/Murray, PSJ Rd 1: 1st pl; Rd 2: 1st pl; PGP: 2nd pl; PIII Std: 1st pl; Jump: 2nd pl; Snkr: 1st pl, SQ; Pairs: 2nd pl, Q

Happy Dog, 7/4-5

Tamar Fuhrer/Murray, PIII Snkr: 1st pl, SQ; Jump: 1st pl, 4th pl; Gamble: 1st pl

West Valley Dog Sports, 7/12-13

Aljean Harmetz/Dylan, Start Snkr: 1st pl; Adv Gamble: 2nd pl; Snkr: 2nd pl

Happy Dog, 9/20-21

Tamar Fuhrer/Murray, PSJ Rd 1: 2nd pl; Rd 2: 1st pl; PGP: 2nd pl; PIII Snkr: 1st pl

Contact Point, 11/8-9

Lucy Kluckhohn Jones/Hope, PIII Gamble: 4th pl

DART, 11/15-16

Tamar Fuhrer/Murray, PIII Gamble: 1st pl; Jump: 1st pl; Pairs: 1st pl; PGP: 4th pl; P Biathlon: 1st pl
 Aljean Harmetz/Dylan, Adv Snkr: 1st pl
 Lucy Kluckhohn Jones/Hope, PIII Pairs: Q

Happy Dog, 11/28-30

Kate Bernstein/Oliver, Adv Pairs: (with Diva) 1st pl; PIII Snkr: 3rd pl; PSJ: 3rd pl
 Clydine Crowder/Diva, Adv Pairs: (with Oliver) 1st pl; Mast Gamble: 2nd pl; Snkr: 3rd pl

Scoreboard

Tamar Fuhrer/Murray, PIII Gamble: 1st pl; Snkr: 1st pl; Pairs: 2nd pl; Jump: 3rd pl; PMC Std: 1st pl; P Biathlon: 2nd pl; PGP: 2nd pl

Aljean Harmetz/Dylan, Adv Gamble: 2nd pl; Mast Jump: 2nd pl

Lucky Kluckhohn Jones/Hope, PIII Pairs: Q
Carol Lyon/Windy, Adv Std: 1st pl; Gamble: 1st pl

BARN HUNT

Winning Edge Dog Sports, 9/20

Dawn Armstrong/Geppetto, Nov: 3rd pl

Winning Edge Dog Sports, 11/16

Dawn Armstrong/Geppetto, Nov: 1st pl, 1st pl

New Titles

Claudine Armand/Rocco, CL2-F, CL2-R, CL2-S, NJP, OAP, OJP

Dawn Armstrong/Geppetto, RAT-I, RAT-N

Jane Barack/Lulu, OAJ, AX, AXJ, MX

Judith Brecka/Mikey, OM1

Sharisse Chavez/Sierra, CD

Steve Chavez/Fedor, IPO1

Susan Cucura/Busy, NA, NAJ

Gabrielle de Benedictis/Jade, NA

Tamar Fuhrer/Murray, CL4, PD, APD, PTM, PTM-Bronze, PKM, PJM, PRM, MXB, MJB

Nancy Gast/Cannon, MXS

Aljean Harmetz/Dylan, SG, OF, AS

Aljean Harmetz/Jason, ChFH, ChSN

Diana Kerew/Cutter, U-CD

Lucy Kluckhohn Jones/Hope, PJM, PSM, PRCH

Carol Lyon/Windy, AX

Joan Miner/Mocha Luna, NA, NAJ

Toby Mouchette/Drover, NA, NAJ

Debbie Pinthus/Caper, NA, NAJ, OA, OAJ, AXJ

Judy Sheller/Asia, NJP

Jim Stevens/Ruby, WC

and

Tamar Fuhrer/Murray, MACH

Robyn McNutt/Mack, GCH

Crystal Santana/Biscuit, C-ATCH, C-ATCH 2

Tawn Sinclair/Kelsey, MACH

Tawn Sinclair/Tuffie, MACH 12

WLAOTC wishes Good Luck and Safe Travels to members **Tawn Sinclair**, **Patti Voyles**, and **Judith Brecka** at the AKC Agility Invitational and National Obedience Classic. Tawn will be running Keeshonds Tuffie and Tasha in the Agility Invitational; Tuffie's son, Ray, will also be competing in this event (handled by owner Jocelyn Tipple). Tuffie and Tasha earned invites to the event by being ranked in the top 5 of their breed from July 1, 2013, to June 30, 2014. Judith Brecka will be competing in Utility with her Staffordshire Bull Terrier, Mikey, at the National Obedience Classic (*story, p.13*). Have a great time and enjoy your dogs—you've earned it!

(Right: Jocelyn Tipple designed this logo to commemorate the Shoreline Kees who will be participating in the Agility Invitational.)



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