



The Lost Coast *H O W L E R*

Editor: Barbara Stelz

FEBRUARY 2007

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NEXT MEETING:

**TUESDAY,
FEBRUARY 20**

at

**Mrs. Mendes' Home
405 Craig Street
Ferndale**

**Board Mtg. - 6:30 p.m.
General Mtg. - 7:00 p.m.**

Directions:

From Main St. Ferndale,
turn Left onto Brown St.,
Brown St. dead ends on
Craig. Park here.

Join us!!!

All Welcome.

President's Corner..

Dear Club Members:

For those of you who haven't heard, I will be resigning my club membership shortly as I am moving to Sacramento. I have accepted a job transfer and purchased a house (cheaper than in Eureka!) which is just perfect for me and my animals. Most of the tasks/jobs for the conformation and obedience show are taken care of or are assigned to people.

I wish everyone the best of luck and many happy wins and Q's!

Sincerely,

Alice Symons

TOP DOGS

The AKC recently made its annual announcement of the top 10 dog breeds for the last year. From the AKC:

2006 Most Popular Dogs in the U.S.



It is interesting to compare the AKC's list above with the 77 breeder referral requests (below) received by LCKC during 2006. While six of the most inquired about breeds here are on AKC's Top Ten list, the remaining breeds receiving the most inquiries locally (Pug, Chessie, Dobe, Siberian, Toy Fox Terrier) are farther on down, some (Chessie, Cattle Dog, Toy Fox) considerably so. And although No. 140 on AKC's list of 155 breeds, I know my Puli is a Top Dog, and I'm sure yours is too! For a complete list of breed popularity, based on registration statistics, see www.akc.org/reg/dogreg_stats.cfm

LCKC'S LIST::

<u>No. Requests</u>	<u>Breed Requested</u>	<u>No. Requests</u>	<u>Breed Requested</u>
7	DACHSHUND	1	BULL MASTIFF
6	LABRADOR RETRIEVER	1	CAIRN TERRIER
6	POODLE	1	CAVALIER KING CHARLES
4	PUG	1	CHIHUAHUA
4	YORKSHIRE TERRIER	1	COCKER SPANIEL
3	CHESAPEAKE BAY RETRIEVER	1	ENGLISH SPRINGER SPANIEL
3	DOBERMAN	1	GREAT DANE
3	SIBERIAN HUSKY	1	GREAT PYRENEES
3	TOY FOX TERRIER	1	MANCHESTER TERRIER
2	AUSTRALIAN CATTLE DOG	1	MASTIFF
2	BEAGLE	1	NEWFOUNDLAND
2	BOSTON TERRIER	1	PARSON RUSSELL TERRIER
2	BOXER	1	POMERANIAN
2	FRENCH BULLDOG	1	PORTUGUESE WATER DOG
2	GERMAN SHEPHERD DOG	1	RHODESIAN RIDGEBACK
2	MINIATURE SCHNAUZER	1	SHETLAND SHEEPDOG
2	ROTTWEILER	1	SHIH TZU
1	ALASKAN MALAMUTE	1	WHIPPET
1	BICHONS FRISES	1	WIRE-HAIRED FOX TERRIER
1	BORDER COLLIE		

Attention is Everything

by Laurie S. Coger, DVM, CVCP, RP
(From *The Australian Shepherd Journal*)

Not long ago, a camera company had a series of outstanding commercials starring a famous tennis player. The catchphrase for these commercials was "Image is Everything!" And the images in these commercials were impressive - dynamic, sharply focused, and energetic. I'm sure both Canon® and Andre Agassi knew that this slogan would be adapted and applied to all sorts of situations, but I doubt they ever considered the sport of dog obedience. However, if the image of an enthusiastic, energetic, alert dog, working in synch with his handler is everything you strive for, then you must agree, "Attention is everything!"

The concept of attention has been around the obedience world for some time, and has come to mean different things to different people. Many handlers equate attention to the dog looking up at the handler, or the so-called "heads-up" heeling. However, looking at the handler is only a small part of attention. Many dogs heel with their heads up, but without truly looking at or connecting to their handler. A truly attentive dog is visually and mentally engaged in his work and his trainer. The trainer is also completely focused on the dog. For other trainers, attention is what their dog gives them, albeit briefly, when they command the dog to "Look!" or "Watch me!" After just a few steps of heeling, the dog looks away, and the handler must try to regain the dog's attention, usually by chanting the "watch me" mantra, using food, a toy, or a leash pop. True attention should be a continuous connection between dog and handler, without intermittent prompting by the handler.

Whether your aspirations are High in Trial awards or simply a qualifying ribbon, how well you and your dog understand attention will be critical to your success. Your dog cannot learn from or work with you unless he is paying attention to you. You can see what attention-less training gets you in many obedience trial rings across the country. Think of the laments of many obedience competitors: "He got distracted by the kid outside the ring;" "He wanted to sniff at what was on the ground;" "I said hello to my friend who was stewarding and my dog walked away!" All of these situations are demonstrations of a dog and handler team that do not understand the importance of attention. If the dog was not looking at or thinking about anything but the handler, he wouldn't notice distractions outside the ring. And if the handler takes his attention off his dog, who can blame the dog for doing the same?

Teaching and maintaining attention requires both thought and effort on the part of the handler. Often the hardest part is learning to always pay attention to the dog, whatever the circumstances or situation. If you want 100% of your dog's attention, you must give him 100% of yours, no matter what. If you do not have a bright, attentive dog, and you continue to train, you can actually train your dog to be inattentive, unfocused, or worse. As the quality of his performance deteriorates, or a mistake is made, you are likely to correct him, which often causes the dog to become dull or mentally flat. More mistakes are made, more corrections are given, and a vicious cycle begins. Actually, you should be correcting yourself for not recognizing the lack of attention that was the basis for the dog's poor performance and doing something about that.

While an actual step-by-step method of teaching attention is beyond the space allowed here, there are several key concepts that apply to most of the common training methods in use today.

First and foremost, you should have a mental image of what you want you and your dog to look like. This image should be your personal ideal of perfection for the two of you - it is both your goal and a yardstick against which to measure your progress. In developing your perfect mental image, it is helpful to watch other handlers, especially the experienced and talented, and incorporate aspects of their style into your idea of perfection. Then, when you have the end product you want in mind, you can determine what skills need to be learned to produce that performance. For example, picture a perfect recall. When told to stay, the dog remains bright and ready to respond at any moment as the handler leaves. When told to come, he comes straight to the handler, at a gallop, and lands in a perfect front. He waits attentively to be told to finish, which he also does quickly. Once in heel position, he maintains attention until released by the handler. Into how many different parts would you break down this exercise to teach it to your dog? (continued on next page...)

Now that you have your ideal performance in mind, you must decide what is the minimum level of performance that is acceptable for the level you and your dog are currently at. As your dog's training progresses, you will expect more from him. You must be sure to fairly raise your standard of performance in small increments, setting the dog up for success, then gradually making the work more difficult. You must be as clear as possible to your dog as to what you are asking, in each criteria of the exercise. You must tell him when he is right, and not tell him he is right when he isn't. For example, if you are working on his sits in heeling, you may first want him to sit squarely, rather than rolling on a hip. Then you will add sit quickly when you halt, and then add straight to the criteria. Once he has mastered sitting squarely, you will not accept a sit that isn't square, and so on with each criteria. In this way you will build the perfect sit step by step.

Thinking about training in this way makes it seem very straightforward - do this, that, then this, and then you have perfection. As you well know, it's not that simple! However, having a plan for what you want, and having an idea of the steps you will take to get there, will help you make rapid progress. A clear image of your end goal and the pieces it will take to put it together will help you more clearly communicate with your dog. Understanding and applying attention enables a connection between you and your dog that makes training more enjoyable and rewarding for both of you, as well as enabling you to break through to new heights of performance.

(Many thanks to Irene Hetrick for providing us with the above article. *Ed*)

LCKC Logo Apparel Order... Wear your club logo with pride!!!



GOOD NEWS! The cutoff date for the LCKC logo apparel order has been **extended** through March, as we are working on an order of T-shirts to sell at the show. Club members can provide their own garments **OR** order jackets, shirts, vests, etc., from Sport and Cycle in Eureka. The logo is available either embroidered or silk screened onto the garments. The embroidery is approximately 4"x4" (Note: It is too large for a baseball cap), so it works best in the breast pocket area of a garment. Silk screening is also available (like on the club volunteer shirts). To do a silkscreen order, though, we will need a minimum of 10 items. No minimum order for the embroidery. The cost of the embroidered logo is \$13.50, and the silk screen logo is \$3.70 per garment. If you provide your own garment, you will be charged for the cost of the logo only. You can buy or order garments from Sport and Cycle.

Last time we did a special order, we got a discount from Sport and Cycle on garments ordered through their catalog. It is **VERY IMPORTANT** that you place your order through me and not directly with Sport and Cycle to get the discounted garment and logo prices. You can obtain the catalog number, color, and size information from Sport and Cycle, but your selection information must then be given to me, as I need to place the club order all at one time.

For more information, or if you have questions, please contact Michelle Dostal at 442-0726 or mjdostal@humboldt1.com

AKC Announces Recipients of 2007 Lifetime Achievement Awards

The AKC Lifetime Achievement Awards honor those individuals who have made outstanding contributions to the sport of purebred dogs on a national level. Recipients are selected by votes cast by AKC member clubs for nominees in the categories of Conformation, Companion Events, and Performance. This year, in the Companion Events category, the honoree is **Marian Mason Hodesson**, who is scheduled to judge for us at our conformation shows.

Marian Mason Hodesson, of Tucson, Arizona, was born in England and emigrated with her family to the United States in 1928. They established Wilpshire Kennel in the early thirties. Drawn first to Obedience, she showed and finished several dogs in those early years in both Conformation and Obedience. She became an Obedience judge in the 1940s and applied for her first breed in 1963. Presently licensed to judge the Sporting, Working, Non-Sporting, and Herding Groups, Mrs. Hodesson has judged throughout the United States and Canada, as well as in Mexico, New Zealand and Australia.

A charter member of the Canada del Oro Kennel Club, she has been a member of the Collie Club of America and Tucson Kennel Club for over 53 and 35 years, respectively, serving as Chair in a variety of capacities.

Mrs. Hodesson worked with her husband, Samuel, a veterinarian, for 23 years. Longtime contributors to the Veterinary School Library at the Ohio State University, she and her late husband had been working towards an endowment. Mrs. Hodesson experienced the thrill of a lifetime when she recently found out that their goal had been achieved.

We are fortunate to have such a respected and honored judge come to the North Coast to judge for us.

In upcoming issues of The Howler, I hope to be able to provide some biographical information on some of the other judges that will be officiating for us this year. ...Ed.

FREE BAG OF DOG FOOD! Check out www.nutroproducts.com/yourfamily.jsp and receive a coupon for a free bag of Nutro dog food. If you won't be using the food for your own dog, please consider donating it to our raffle.

DESIGNER DOGS

THE NEW YORK TIMES published a feature article early this month in their Sunday magazine section regarding dog breeding and "designer dogs." The article is way too long to include in The Howler, but I recommend your taking the time to read it, as it is provocative to people on both sides of this issue.

(Note: You need to get through the first few pages of the article to get to the meat of it all.)

www.nytimes.com/2007/02/04/magazine/04dogs.t.html

BRAGS AND WAGS

- *Cathy Wright's Parson Russell Terrier, DANDY, earned his TT (Temperament Tested) title.*
- *Alice Symons' Pharaoh Hound, BOSCH, was Winners Dog in Portland last month and also earned his CGC.*
- *Irene Hetrick's Toy Manchester Terrier, SCOUT, pictured below, completed his Rally Advanced title in Portland last month.*



CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL!

Minutes from January 16, 2007

Board Meeting

Attendees – Barbara Stelz, Alice Symons, Irene Hetrick, Deborah Enns, Jill Otto, Michelle Dostal.

Minutes of Last Meeting – Delete Fortuna High School, Seminar is 3 hours not 4 hours. **Approved** – MSAC

Report of Treasurer – Patty Mendes absent, Michelle Dostal read a report from Patty.

Unfinished Business – Discussion on E-Script as an income source. Sign up information can be obtained from Michelle or Jim. Safeway only supports K-12 schools but many other businesses will donate to our club.

New Business – Jill Otto printed out a very nice Event Log for 2006 that we can use for compliance regulations for AKC for our show.

Adjournment – 6:43 pm

General Meeting

Attendees - Barbara Stelz, Alice Symons, Irene Hetrick, Deborah Enns, Jill Otto, Michelle Dostal, Cathlyn Wright, Jim Wasetis, Chris Irvin, Rose Kessler.

Minutes of Last Meeting – **Approved MSAC**

Report of President – Very short report given by Alice. She is very busy with show stuff.

Report of Secretary – The club received a Thank You card from BONES for the donation of the food, treats and toys collected at the Christmas party.

Report of Treasurer - Patty Mendes absent, Michelle Dostal read a report from Patty.

New Member Applications – Received 2 new applications, Arneson family – **Approved MSAC**. Waluk family – **Approved MSAC**. Welcome new members!

Report of Committees –

Ring Practice – Very good turnouts. Rose reports \$22 from 12/03/06, \$52 from 01/14/07 toward purchase of ring gates.

Discussion on using the covered arena at Redwood Acres. Cathy Wright volunteered to look into the cost.

2007 Conformation/Obedience Show – Show application needs Compliance info, Officer update, Disaster plan. Judging panel sent in. Premium List will be worked on. Trophy donations still needed for some spots by 02/15/07. Discussion on trophies. Towels and pails, picture frames and picture certificates discussed. Still need a Trophy Chair. A show catalog will be given to Group 2- 4 places for the prize. BIS/HIT will be a chair on Sat and a large shade cloth on Sun. Need 8' projection screen for seminar. Danielle Reed is in charge of Hospitality at show both days. Discussion about dinner on Friday. Does anyone want cook for it? Beaches and Beanery available for show for exhibitors. We will have the Lure Coursing Fun Run on Saturday. Victoria Cook will put Save the Date announcements out for us. Discussion on Rally equipment needed. Rose will look into it. Cathy Wright will look into the sounds system we will need. She may be able to get use of one if we buy and donate a microphone. Discussion on gating we need to buy with ring practice money. Nick Mendes gave a quote of \$425 plus tax for lattice for 2 forty by forty by 48" tall rings. J & J Pet Supplies sells a complete 40' x 50' ring for \$464, each 10' section runs \$28 for wood or \$40 for PVC if bought individually. The club owns about 90' of folding free standing PVC ring gates.

2007 Agility Trial – Beverly absent.

Unfinished Business-

Webpage updates – Jim will do soon.

Future LCKC logo garment order – Michelle is taking orders. Get yours in soon. Will fill in order with shirts for club to sell to make minimum purchase. Order is on hold until Feb so there will be time to get an inventory of leftover shirts.

New Business –

Discuss option of a new date or a cluster for '08 breed/obedience show – Discussion on moving our date. It appears a lot of clubs are moving their dates. Cathy Wright will try to get the Southern Oregon club to respond about a cluster or match at our show.

Adjournment – 8:43 pm

Heavenly Dog Show

One day in heaven, Saint Peter, Saint Paul, and Saint John were standing around the heavenly kennels watching the dogs laying around. "I am certainly bored," stated John. "Me too" Paul chimed in. Peter stood, and watching the dogs, said, "I know. Why don't we have a dog show?"

Paul & John thought that the idea was great except for one small detail that Paul pointed out. "Who are we to compete against, Peter?"

The trio pondered a moment, then Peter realized the answer: "We will call up Satan and invite him to the dog show. I mean, we have all of the finest dogs here in heaven; all of the World and National Champions are here. Satan's kennels are filled with the spoiled, difficult, and mean dogs. We are certain to win at the show!"

And so the trio called up Satan on the "other realm" communication line and invited him to their dog show. Satan laughed and asked why they would want to be humiliated like that, because he would certainly beat them.

Peter, Paul and John did not understand. "What do you mean, Satan?," Peter asked. "We have all of the National and World Champion dogs in our kennels in heaven. How could you possibly beat us?"

Satan paused a moment and then laughed. "Have you forgotten so soon gentlemen?.....I have all the judges!"

(Thanks to Cathy Wright for sending in this funny story. Ed.)



LAST CALL FOR 2007 MEMBERSHIP DUES

Don't let your membership lapse and have to go through a new application process!

(Note: If you joined in Oct. 2006 or later, you are covered through 2007.)

As per our Club Bylaws: "Regular and Associate membership dues shall be \$15.00 per year, Family Membership shall be \$25.00 per year, and Junior membership shall be \$5.00 per year. Annual dues shall be payable on or before January 1st of each year. No member may vote whose dues are not paid up for the current year. A membership will be considered lapsed and automatically terminated if such member's dues remain unpaid 60 days after the first of the fiscal year. In no case may a person be entitled to vote at any Club meeting whose dues are unpaid as of the date of that meeting."

Dues may be paid in person at a club meeting, or a check may be sent to:

**Lost Coast Kennel Club
P.O. Box 6808
Eureka CA 95501**

.....
(Please tear off and include with your check)

NAME(S) OF MEMBER(S): _____

Telephone: _____ E-Mail: _____

TYPE OF MEMBERSHIP: () Regular \$15 () Family \$25 () Associate \$15 () Junior \$5

Amount of Dues: \$ _____

2007 Trophy Fund Donation: \$ _____

TOTAL: \$ _____

I am interested in and/or can help with:
