



The Lost Coast **H O W L E R**

Editor: Barbara Stelz

May 2007

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NEXT MEETING:

**TUESDAY,
MAY 15**

at the

ADORNI CENTER
1011 Waterfront Drive
Eureka

Board Mtg. - 6:30 p.m.

Regular Mtg. - 7:00

**Join us!!!
All Welcome.**

President's Corner...

Just a reminder that our shows are rapidly approaching.

*The Breed-Obedience show is June 30th and July 1st.
Your Premium List should arrive in the mail soon.
Remember that Rally Obedience is also included.*

We will need volunteers to help set up on Friday, June 29th. There will be a Fun Match and pasta dinner that evening.

After the show on Saturday, we will be offering a seminar entitled "Gilbert's K9 Structure and Movement" as well as a lure coursing demo. CGC testing will also be available on Saturday.

After the show on Sunday, we will again need volunteers to help take down the show equipment. All help will be appreciated!

The Agility Trial will be just 3 weeks after the breed show. The show is 3 days, so 3 chances to earn legs toward a title.

See you at the next meeting.

Jill Otto

These are troubling times for concerned pet owners as we are faced with proposed discriminatory legislation mandating spay/neuter and massive recalls of tainted dog food.

FOOD

Before I left for Ireland in April, there had been approximately 100 recalled pet foods. I was dismayed to return this month to find the list had grown during my absence. I have always been a label reader, but I am now a somewhat paranoid label reader as I scrutinize bags and cans of dog food. I am fortunate that the foods I am currently feeding (Evanger's Pheasant & Brown Rice, Innova Evo, Solid Gold Holistique) have been deemed safe, but I find myself checking not only bags and cans of food but dog treats as well for any possibly undesirable ingredients. I find it very disconcerting that we are now hearing about the tainted ingredients being found in hog feed, feed for farmed fish, and possibly in other human food.

I had a small incident the end of November. I had three dogs at the time...a 14-year-old, 9-year-old, and almost 6-year-old. I purchased some Meaty Bone Denta-Delicious treats, giving one to the oldest and youngest but not to the 9-year-old, who was on a restricted diet. After ingesting the bone, my youngest vomited it up, and my oldest had diarrhea. I was not happy, but I merely gave no more bones and forgot about the incident. It came back to my mind when all the recalls started happening.

I had not discarded the chew bones, and when I decided to check the ingredient list to see if they contained any of the suspected contaminants, I found that they had been manufactured by Del Monte...a company which had approximately 13 products on the recall list. While the bones did NOT list wheat or rice gluten as an ingredient, I decided to e-mail Del Monte, just as an FYI, to alert them to my experience.

I wrote a polite note saying that, especially in light of the current pet food industry situation, I thought they might want to be aware of my experience. I mentioned that I was not just a casual dog owner but someone with 25+ years experience as an exhibitor/breeder. I said I was not in any way suggesting the product was toxic but thought they might want to consider that perhaps it was not as easily digestible as could be desired.

I did receive a reply fairly quickly - a condescending reply telling me that the introduction of any new food should be done on a gradual basis to avoid digestive upset and that I should always consult my veterinarian if I had any concern about my dogs' health.

Of course I know the introduction of any new food should be gradual. And as for having to be told to consult my vet, well, the fact that we are on a first-name basis, that he sent an engraved memorial stone when one of my dogs died unexpectedly, and that he this week took it upon himself to call a vet in Weed to personally thank her for taking such good care of his patient in an emergency situation during my absence (another story!), I believe gives a hint of how often I am in consultation with him.

And this was a TREAT, and I had given only a portion of the recommended amount. My dogs do not usually exhibit such sensitive digestive systems. Sometimes I think they could eat road kill with no consequences.

Del Monte did, however, send me a coupon for a free box of Milk Bones. Today, I received another coupon from them.. I can use them for our upcoming raffle!

By the way, many thanks to Jeannie Breslin for taking the time to send out recall information. To keep on top of the latest information, keep checking www.fda.gov/opacom/7alerts.html

LEGISLATION

The proposed legislation is another emotional issue, one that I hope you all are proactively fighting. It had been my intention to write a brief article in this newsletter about my doggy observations while in Ireland, but I am putting that aside for now in order to use the time to write and fax letters in opposition of the bill. I had previously faxed to the members of the Assembly Business and Professions Committee, as well as our local Assembly representatives, but

now that the bill has been amended and is with the California Assembly Appropriations Committee, there is urgent need to write to all members of that Committee **BEFORE WEDNESDAY, MAY 16.**

The bill has been slightly improved with its recent amendments (exempting out-of-state owners who are temporarily in CA for showing, training, or other legitimate purpose; allowing purebred owners/breeders to qualify for/purchase an intact animal permit if the dog has competed in a show within the last two years or, if under two years of age, has earned or is in the process of earning a title). However, it is still discriminatory and unrealistic, and despite AKC's reassuring me, I still feel there is a lack of clarity in the language about the expiration of permits by January 1, 2009.

Keep checking www.akc.org for the latest updates, and many thanks to Cathy Wright for her efforts to e-mail and inform our club members on this legislation.



AMERICAN
KENNEL CLUBSM

Dog Owners' Rights Under Attack! Learn How to Fight Back!

A KC's Canine Legislation Department Presents:

Lobby Day to Oppose AB 1634

Tuesday, May 15th 11am -1pm

Hyatt Regency Ballroom – 1209 L Street
(Downtown Sacramento, Across from the Capitol)

The American Kennel Club Canine Legislation Department will conduct a Lobby Day Training Seminar for AKC club officers, legislative liaisons, and concerned dog owners.

This seminar will provide the necessary strategies and materials to enable the purebred dog community to effectively educate your Assemblymembers about AB 1634.

Join us and learn how you can help protect your rights as a responsible dog owner.

In the afternoon concerned dog owners will visit the Capitol to meet with their Assemblymembers.



The following is the first in a series of articles on handling which will be printed in our newsletter. Many thanks to Irene for arranging for us to be able to offer them. - Ed.

HANDLING 1

BE PREPARED WITH A "GAME PLAN", BEFORE YOU EVER ENTER THE RING.

"Composure," while in the Ring, is a major key to success and a key to your dog enjoying itself.

How does one maintain "Composure" while they are nervous? It's hard to do. But it's a Must.

In the Nervous Mode, you are most likely to forget everything you know about showing your dog.

I feel one of the things that can bring a person out of "I'm Nervous, I can't breathe, my knees are knocking together.....AHHH, and my dog isn't performing like at class!!!!" is BE PREPARED with a "Game Plan" and "Checklists".....these few things will bring you back to FOCUS on your task at hand: Presenting your dog to your best ability and making it an enjoyable experience for your dog. Winning will most likely follow if your dog is worthy.

What does a Game plan entail, you might ask?

WATCH the breeds before your breed and "gain "knowledge" about the particular Judge you are showing to.

In addition, if it is a two-day show and if the judge who is judging the second day is doing any breeds the first day, try to watch his judging of other breeds a bit. It will give you a 'feel' for that judge.

My First advice is GET THERE EARLY so you're all set up and ready to WATCH the classes before you. (In addition, pick your favorite handler and WATCH what they are doing in the classes before you.)

By this I mean STOP TALKING, STOP the "busy-ness" of Your Thoughts about how nervous you are and all your preoccupied thoughts about the Handling job you are about to do.

Stop "DOING" and WATCH.

Clear Your Thoughts and MAKE A PLAN.

Have a CLEAR PLAN in your head of where the judge has had the classes before you:

- a.) First line up when you enter the ring (Are you first in line? Be a good leader.)
- b.) Where does the judge want you to stack for the Individual exam? You should be prepared and already have your dog stacked ready for the exam when it is your turn. (I see newbie handlers hesitate with this and lose valuable seconds that could have been utilized to perfect their dog's stack. Seconds that make or break the "picture perfect"- first impression)
- c.) Is the judge requiring the Handler to open the mouth or is the judge doing it himself?
Have a couple of Experienced people (ring side) do a 'mock exam' so your performance-on that day-in opening the mouth is smooth. = Smooth performance.
Be prepared to be 'helpful' if the judge is doing the mouth exam, so you don't fumble, particularly with an inexperienced puppy. Keep your head/body out of the way!
- d.) What is the judge's movement pattern? WATCH the classes before you.
(Pay particular attention to where you are going to make your turns. Smooth Turns = Smooth Movement=Smooth Performance)

- e.) Where are you going to Stop for the "free bait," and What are you going to "show off". (Straight-on-nice head and feet?, Great Side profile?)
Which is the best feature of your dog?
Allow yourself enough room to show-off your dog; have a designated spot Pre-Planned.
Don't run up on the judge and then decide where to stop.
Don't interfere with the 'space' of the dog that was behind you, now stacking for their own individual exam.
- f.) How much Room is he giving you for the "free bait" AND does he prefer to see the dogs free bait "front on" or "side view." (Some judges have a Particular Preference, and if you don't do it Their Way, they get ticked off. = Points against your smooth "performance.")
- g.) How much Time is he giving for the "free bait"? Some judges allow you time to 'get it right'... others say "thank you" if you didn't hit "the pose" in time allowed, = points against your smooth performance. Be prepared to hit it right quickly, if judge is the latter.

This is what you do BEFORE you go into the ring. More will follow.

By Michelle Santana
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Excerpts from a Dog's Diary

8:00 am - Dog food! My favorite thing!
9:30 am - A car ride! My favorite thing!
9:40 am - A walk in the park! My favorite thing!
10:30am - Got rubbed and petted! My favorite thing!
12:00pm - Lunch! My favorite thing!
1:00 pm - Played in the yard! My favorite thing!
3:00 pm - Wagged my tail! My favorite thing!
5:00 pm - Milk bones! My favorite thing!
7:00 pm - Got to play ball! My favorite thing!
8:00 pm - Wow! Watched TV with the people! My favorite thing!
11:00 pm - Sleeping on the bed! My favorite thing!

Excerpts from a Cat's Diary

Day 983 of my captivity. My captors continue to taunt me with bizarre little dangling objects. They dine lavishly on fresh meat, while I am fed hash or some sort of dry nuggets. Although I make my contempt for the rations perfectly clear, I nevertheless must eat something in order to keep up my strength. In an attempt to disgust them, I once again vomit on the carpet. Today I decapitated a mouse and dropped its headless body at their feet. I had hoped this would strike fear into their hearts, since it clearly demonstrates what I am capable of. However, they merely made condescending comments about what a 'good little hunter' I am. Bastards! There was some sort of assembly of their accomplices tonight. I was placed in solitary confinement for the duration of the event. However, I could hear the noises and smell the food. I overheard that my confinement was due to the power of 'allergies.' I must learn what this means, and how to use it to my advantage. Today I was almost successful in an attempt to assassinate one of my tormentors by weaving around his feet as he was walking. I must try this again tomorrow -- but at the top of the stairs. I am convinced that the other prisoners here are flunkies and snitches. The dog receives special privileges. He is regularly released - and seems to be more than willing to return. He is obviously retarded. The bird has got to be an informant. I observe him communicate with the guards regularly. I am certain that he reports my every move. My captors have arranged protective custody for him in an elevated cell, so he is safe. For now...

LOST COAST KENNEL CLUB MEETING AGENDA April 17, 2007

Board Meeting: Called to order at 6:30 pm, Attendees; Jill Otto, Deb St. Myers, Deb Enns, Nick Mendes, Patty Mendes, Beverly Morgan Lewis, and Irene Hetrick.

Minutes of Last Meeting: Approved **MSAC**

Report of Treasurer: Report given by **Patty Mendes**

Unfinished Business: Revised Premium List was sent in to MB-F by **Deb St Myers** on 04/17/07.

New Business: None

Adjournment: 6:45 pm

Informal discussion on Ribbon order for Agility Trial between meetings.

Regular Meeting: Called to order at 7:10 pm, Attendees; All of the above plus Deb Hopkins, Chris Irvin, Danielle Reed, Anita Gage, Diane Silva, Cathy Wright, and Michelle Dostal.

Minutes of Last Meeting: Approved **MSAC**

Report of President: Long discussion on Spay/Neuter Ordinance for Humboldt County and State wide Bill AB1634. Consensus of club to support responsible pet ownership. **Beverly Morgan Lewis** will type up a short article on what the LCKC is for concerning the Ordinance. The Ordinance will go before the Humboldt County BOS on May 1, 2007. **Beverly Morgan Lewis** will attend.

Report of Secretary: LCKC received a letter from the Judges Education Association asking for a donation. It was decided not to donate at this time.

Report of Treasurer: Report given by **Patty Mendes**. **Patty Mendes** asks that those still owing for their trophy sponsorships to please remit payment now. Sport and Cycle was paid twice on the same bill so the LCKC now has a credit with them. The E-script program still needs the original 501(c) 3 form. The Secretary of State will be contacted.

New Member Applications: None

Report of Committees:

- o Ring practice: So far \$231 has been collected. Voted to reimburse **Rose Kessler** for purchasing a grooming table. **MSAC**. **Chris Irvin** suggested Highland Park as an option for a new ring practice site. Cutten School has started baseball and is unavailable for the season.
- o Newsletter: More articles and pictures are needed from the membership. Please send to **Barb Stelz**. Please ask permission from the author if you use something someone else wrote. Anything of general interest to the membership is welcome. It was suggested that **Barb Stelz** put her email address in the newsletter so people will have it on hand to send articles to.
- o Club Apparel: Get your information to **Michelle Dostal** quickly as the order will be placed in the next few weeks. Orders with embroidery are only taken every 3 years or so. Now is the time to get your items.
- o 2007 Conformation/Obedience Show: AKC will not let us use OCKC's name in our premium as they are not AKC approved yet. The match and dinner will be advertised as "Practice and Pasta." OCKC will still do the CGC testing. **Chris Irvin** will ask Best of Brew if they will sell coffee at our show. Discussion on food for judge's hospitality. **Deb Enns** will buy at Costco and **Danielle Reed** will set it up at the show. **Nick Mendes** has order the materials for making the ring gating and it will arrive in 2 weeks. **Ardith Dahlstrom** has volunteered to do the Judge Selection for the 2008 show. Thank you **Ardith!** **We need a member to volunteer to be Show Chair for 2008. This needs to be done ASAP.** **Chris Irvin** is considering volunteering for the Trophy Chair position. All members are requested to help with raffle donations. Request letters can be obtained from **Irene Hetrick**. **Irene** also has empty baskets if you would like to fill one for the raffle.
- o 2007 Agility Trial: Tabled until next month when more time can be spent discussing it.
- o 2008 Conformation/Obedience Show: Joe Gregory and Sandra Goose Allen have been secured as judges for the 2008 Conformation Show.

Unfinished Business: Pet Fair will be held April 21, 2007 at the Farm Store.

New Business: None

Adjournment: 8:50 pm