



The Scramble

January 2009

HAPPY NEW YEAR

Contributions to the Scramble are welcome. Deadlines are:

December for January issue

March for April issue

June for July issue

September for October issue

Send to:

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A WALK ON THE WILD SIDE OF CANINES

By Chris Eastwood

In May, 2007 I spent a truly remarkable three days at Wolf Park, Lafayette, Indiana at a Suzanne Clothier (internationally known author and animal behaviorist) Wolf & Dog Behavior seminar. I was in the company of fellow WCAC members Nancy Reyes and Vicky MacKay and For Your Canine instructors Amy Wukotich and Margaret Simek. After about four hours of training (for example ``what to do if a wolf starts chewing your arm'', and yes, I mean that literally!) we got to spend quite a bit of time in the main wolf-pack enclosure.

Let's just say these are DEFINITELY NOT ``big dogs'', even though they exhibit quite a bit of familiar canine behavior. It's one thing to be standing on the outside of a double safety fence, the inner one being 10 feet tall and barbed wire at the top, and quite another being INSIDE that fence! Wolf Park also has a Bison herd and they hold wolf hunt demos, but these guys all ``know'' each other, and the bison are all healthy, so the hunt exercise never comes to actual bloodshed (well-fed wolves won't risk their own health by attacking a healthy adult.) However, it was interesting when one of the calves strayed a bit too far from the adults, the wolves picked up on that and tried to move in, and the bison herd went into action, circling the calf and facing the wolves.

I threatened Zel, my border collie, with taking her along and letting her be a ``lure'' for the wolves—nice, small, crunchy treat for them! Zel is extremely fast, but I'm guessing that, in the main wolf enclosure, even though it's probably a good 100-150 acres, the wolves would target her, but she could probably stay out of their range...for a while...but I'm thinking it would take about three minutes for her head to just explode from the stress/panic! I think Zel would be a great playmate for a wolf...kind of like the way a mouse is a ``playmate'' for a cat!



Photos courtesy of Wolf Park photography
Monty Sloan and Chris Eastwood



A full wolf pictorial is on page 8



Your best friend is a cold nose, sloppy-licking tongue away.

BRAGS AND WAGS



Congratulations to the WCAC instructors who helped compile the Agility Etiquette guide, which was published in the December issue of Clean Run magazine.

Barb Krynski's Trixie earned her AKC-AX title in October with two first-place ribbons at the Rand Park trials. Her rat terrier, Zap, earned his OAJ title and his UAGII title in November.

Dr. Sue Liszewski [see page 4] proudly watched her German shorthair pointer, Zeke, earn his first tracking title on Dec. 7.

The November WCAC trials brought titles and success to a number of members, including:

Pat Hussey, whose Bedlington's trotted home with scores of ribbons and perfect scores;

Tom Francis and Tilley, who earned her UGRACH title;

Chris and Susan Eastwood, who guided Splash to his UAGII title only months after major surgery;



Jill Hillock and Harmony



Tom Francis and Tilley

Jill Hillock and Harmony, who earned both her UAGI and UAGII titles and points toward UACH;

Delores Valerio and Tristan, who earned his UAGI title;

Jeff and Donna Wykowski and Motu, who now has his UAGII title.



Judge Cheryl Cieslinski with Pat Hussey and her stars

Photos courtesy of Karen Hollis, Sirius Pet Images

NEW UKC AGILITY TITLES AVAILABLE

UKC has announced the addition of new agility titles for dogs that have reached the previously highest title of United Grand Agility Champion (UGRACH).

According to UKC's announcement, `` dogs with the United Grand Agility Champion title that compete and again earn the wins necessary for the UGRACH title will be recognized with the numerical designation confirming their achievement. The designation will appear at the end of the title and indicate the number of times the dog has earned the title. For example, UGRACH2, UGRACH3."

Michelle Morgan, director of UKC dog events, said UKC developed the new designations `` to encourage agility participants to continue to be active and earn recognition for their outstanding work in these events. All UGRACH wins already earned prior to January 1, 2009 will be grandfathered towards these new titles."



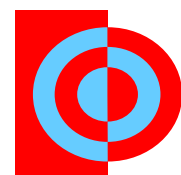
Photo by Sirius Pet Images

FROM THE BOARD

New board members elected by the membership are Art Cuneo and Toni Ginnetti.

Windy city ``bucks" as compensation for volunteer work at trials will be distributed in a revised formula by the trial chairman and according to jobs performed.

Class costs will increase by \$5 in 2009 to help cover rising costs, the club's first price increase in several years.



REMEMBERING....

The Cwynar family lost their schnauzer Murphy in September and Kim DeBenedictis lost her papillon Bamm-Bamm. Here are there tributes.

MURPHY BUGABOO BROWN 7/4/94—9/29/08

Sometimes you just know when your life is being irrevocably changed, as it was that Saturday morning. It's a bad habit to go shelter visiting, and it was probably worse for her to get a call saying `you have to come to the shelter now!' She's expecting to say no to a 120-pound shepherd. I'm guarding the gate of a 4 X 10-foot cage, protecting a nine-pound bundle of fur with big brown eyes. She took one look, said she was going to the airport to pick up her sister-in-law and for me to hurry up and pay for the imp.

The imp turned out to be UCDX, UACHX Murphy Bugaboo Brown, CDX,OA,OAJ, and most importantly his USDAA novice agility title, the equivalent of an NA title. Dear Murphy, who competed with his own lawn chair and maroon towel. Woe to the visitor who was sitting in his chair when he returned from a run.

Murphy, who took three long years of USDAA competition to earn a simple title on a snowy October day. Murphy, with his one ear up, one ear down and long tail and ice on his eyebrows and beard finally made time and received his third maroon ribbon. And it was Murphy who took more than a year of not qualifying in UKC agility to figure out that the teeter was supposed to move.

Murphy, who stayed at the start line when Genny told him to sit, as she walked a perfect Open healing pattern. She was a little surprised to see him waiting for her, as proud as could be when she returned to him. And it was Murphy who , at another Open trial, lagged as usual and finally just waited for Genny to do her about turn and come back and catch up to him.

Murphy, who understood the basics of Utility, but chose to bring articles and take jumps at his own speed and in his own way. And it was Murphy, who at a Four Paws UKC trial, kept scooting around before being left for the long sit. Luckily someone noticed the inch-long beetle that had crawled under his butt. The judge moved the whole line to the other side of the ring after stomping the beetle. Murphy stayed, got a ribbon and a new nickname—Bugs.

Murphy, who was the photogenic one, appearing in newspapers with his Uncle Sam costume, and Murphy who rode in the convertible every July 4th while cookies were thrown to his canine admirers.

It was Murphy who completed that perfect pack of Shadow, Georgia and Murphy. That pack who all listened and loves and gave Genny and Lynn a full house and even fuller hearts. And it was Murphy who broke those hearts once again when age and ailments took all his will from him. Gen and Lynn let him go to join his pack mates at that bridge we all know too much about. And it is Murphy who is missed by his earthly pack who he left confused and missing him.

So Murphy, go rest under a shady tree with Georgia while Shadow stands guard and watches and waits for us. Until we meet again...

Love, Mom, Lynn, Teddy, Casey, Savannah and Tippy

Continued on page 5



``Old dogs, like old shoes, are comfortable. They may be a bit out of shape and a little worn around the edges, but they fit well." Bonnie Wilcox

MEET THE MEMBERS

A veterinarian knows plenty about a canine's medical needs, but Dr. Sue Liszewski is adding agility training to her resume as a Windy City member. Dr. Sue and her German shorthair pointer, Zeke, are part of our Intermediate I group.

LET'S GET PERSONAL: I'm originally from the Northwest side of Chicago, now in Des Plaines. I'm a vet [TLC First Animal Hospital, 6468 N. Milwaukee, Chicago]. My family includes my dad [who is wonderful!]; my sister, who now works with me; my brother. An older brother died when I was in my senior year of vet school. Also lost my mom—my best friend whom I still miss terribly.

I've worked in the profession since I was 15; graduated from vet school in 1996. It was one of my life's dreams, and through it I've tried to turn personal tragedies into positive healing energy to allow life to move forward.

I LOVE TO: Write, play guitar [though I don't do either too often.], watch TV, and help animals.

I JOINED WINDY CITY BECAUSE: Zeke needed another outlet for his energy and I owed it to him. His first year was confusing since we were dealing with a lot of family grief, and then my older dog got sick and I spent a lot of time with him. When I lost my old friend, I felt I owed it to Zeke, and we became really close. He got me out a lot more.

MY FIRST DOG WAS: Sampson, a German shepherd. I was three years old when we got him and 16 when he went to the Bridge. Then I had Diamond, who was my sophisticated gentleman. He did whatever we wanted—brought in the paper, brought things from one room to another. When my mom had surgery and dropped her ice packs, she asked him to pick them up—and he did. He had great spirit and stayed with me for 16 years, through vet school and our family grief. He was my soul mate and angel on earth.

THE THING I LOVE MOST ABOUT MY DOG IS: he genuinely loves life. He is often a goof and makes me smile—and sometimes infuriates me. Then he looks at me with that "pathetic" face, and I melt. He is my greeter at the office and everyone loves him. If he accepts you, you must be okay.

I'M BETTER THAN ANYONE AT: My work. I understand what my patients need as well as what their owners do.

MY DOG IS BETTER THAN ANY OTHER AT: Counter surfing.

WHEN MY DOG IS AROUND, HIDE THE: Frisbee

PEOPLE ALWAYS ASK ME: Vet-related questions—but I don't mind.

THE BEST ADVICE I EVER GOT: was from my mom, "never give up on your dreams."

MY DOG WILL FOLLOW ME ANYWHERE IF: He thinks I'm going to leave without him!



Dr. Sue Liszewski and her "assistant-companion" Zeke



WHEN PEOPLE ASK ME IF I SPOIL PETS I TELL THEM: It depends on how you perceive spoiling. They are pampered, but not spoiled.

SOME DAY MY DOG AND I: Are going to enter an agility competition.

SOME DAY I'M GOING TO: I did—open my own clinic and do it my way!

TAKE IT FROM ME: If you want something in life badly enough, if you work hard, have faith and stay strong and positive it will happen.

YOU'LL BE IN THE DOG HOUSE WITH ME IF YOU: Mistreat any animal.

REMEMBERING.....

Continued from page 3

BAMM-BAMM U-CH, U-GRACH, U-ACHX, U-CDX, CCH, CH, MACH 3 Loteki Don Juan DeMarco, CDX, CGC, EAC, OJC, EGC, AAD, CL4-R, CL4-S, CL4-F, TT, TDI, RE 8-28-95 to 11-17-08

By Kim DeBenedictis

My heart is broken. My baby boy died today in my arms at 8:50 this morning at home. His heart just gave out.

He was the love of my life, my heart dog. And I can't imagine life without him.

He took me places I never thought I would go and met people all over the country. Every time I took him to a show, someone would say ``is that Bamm-Bamm? We know all about him." He had a following.

He also had an illustrious career, accomplishing more in his lifetime than I ever dreamed. From winning the entire Premier the first (and only) year they had four trials with a run-off between all four High in Trial winners, he won the run-off winning the whole thing. (And missing total dog because the judge thought his ears were set wrong!) But he sure looked beautiful prancing in that ring for the presentation and jumping onto the chair he won, and posing with his beautiful ears for the cameras and the cover of ``Bloodlines". To an eighth place finish in the 8-inch division at AKC Nationals in Colorado in 1999, to be followed by a fifth place finish two years later when we returned to Colorado in 2001. He had numerous (too many to count) High Divisions and high in trials in UKC. And retired from agility on Aug. 26, 2006 with his AKC MACH 3 run. He was also a breed champion in both AKC and UKC. Not only was he beautiful, he was talented—and all in a four-pound package. He was a therapy dog, an obedience dog and just the most wonderful little dog anyone could ever have.

He ALWAYS had to play Frisbee after every successful run, and when we got home from the trial as well. I'll never forget after he earned MACH1 at the IKC show, I took him off to the side to play Frisbee, where he drew a crowd of onlookers who were in awe of this tiny little dog that played Frisbee like the big guys—running as fast as he could and returning to me while it flopped in his face! And right up until the end, whenever I brought him home from a dog show (even though he didn't compete), he still felt he earned the right to play and would run to the back door and look up at his Frisbee saying ``let's go".

I will miss playing with him. I will miss holding him. I can't imagine life without him. He was my baby boy. I told him to have fun playing Frisbee, and I will be there to play with him again some day.

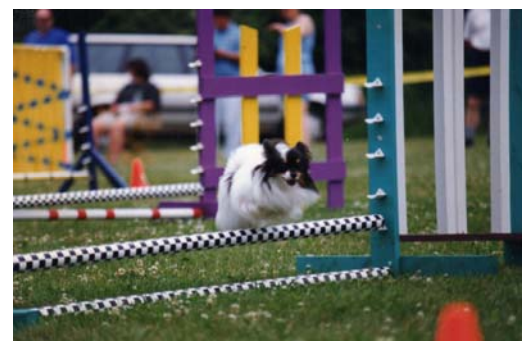
Bamm-Bamm, I love you forever, my baby boy. Wait for me at that Bridge...

Kim & The Flintstone Pac O'Pap

Pebbles (waiting at the Rainbow Bridge), Bamm-Bamm, Dino and Gazzo

NEW ``GOOD SAMARITAN" LAW ENACTED IN ILLINOIS

Those who try to help animals during an emergency situation are protected from later liability under a new Illinois law enacted in September. The Good Samaritan law is an amendment to the Illinois Humane Care for Animals Act. It says ``any person, including a veterinarian, who in good faith provides emergency care or treatment without fee to an injured animal or an animal separated from its owner due to an emergency or a disaster is not liable for civil damages as a result of his or her acts or omissions in providing further care or treatment." There are obvious exceptions made for anyone who willingly harms an animal or engages in ``wanton misconduct" to assure that the act applies only to those legitimately trying to help. The bill can be read at the Illinois General Assembly website—ILGA.gov.



``There is no college that teaches you how to control a pack of dogs." Cesar Millan

EVERYBODY INTO THE POOL

By Toni Ginnetti

Traci Szwed and her husband thought they were as good pet parents as could be. After rescuing eight-year-old Weinmaraner Tully, they followed a whole food diet, holistic supplements and regular walks for years. Even when time started catching up to Tully and walks became less frequent, the dog-loving couple felt Tully's senior years were still being good to him.

“Isn't Tully doing well for an older dog?” Traci asked their vet on a visit last year. The answer—a firm no—stunned them. So did the vet's assessment that Tully's back end was weak and losing muscle tone. The vet suggested hydrotherapy. The suggestion changed not only Tully's future but his owners.

At 14, Tully took to the water surprisingly well after only a few sessions, but the swimming facility was a distance from their Des Plaines home.

Not long afterward, friend Amy Thier and her husband were faced with their own “walk” problems after their older Brittany spaniel, Bailey, suffered a partially torn anterior cruciate ligament. The couple started taking Bailey to a nearby lake to swim. But when Bailey stepped on a fishhook, Amy knew a controlled environment was in order.

The friends decided to open their own canine aquatic facility, and after finding a suitable facility in Des Plaines, they founded “Splash Dog, Inc.” Their veterinarian, Dr. Patricia Cahill, serves as a consultant.

While some veterinary offices offer water treadmills, Splash Dog is the only nearby facility with a heated pool dedicated specifically to canine hydrotherapy.



TOP: 14-year-old Brittany, Bailey

BOTTOM: 16-year-old Weinmaraner Tully



There are many benefits to hydrotherapy, from promoting healing after surgery or an injury to weight control to range of motion improvement. And for agility dogs, the benefits of cardio and general conditioning are a major plus.

“Tully is a perfect example of how beneficial hydrotherapy can be, especially for older dogs,” Amy said of Traci's now 16-year-old dog.

“It's easy, fun, and can improve the health and fitness of our canine companions,” Traci said.



“Tully is a perfect example of how beneficial hydrotherapy can be, especially for older dogs.”

Amy Thier, co-owner of Splash Dog, Inc.



LEFT: Wire-haired pointer, Spirit, is one of the top agility dogs of his breed in the nation.

RIGHT: Cleo, a 7-year-old Leonberger, enjoys a dip in the pool.



Splash Dog, Inc. is located at 42 N. Broadway, Des Plaines. More information is available at 847-296-4007 and www.swimatsplashdog.com.

``I RESCUED A HUMAN TODAY''

Author Unknown

I rescued a human today.

Her eyes met mine as she walked down the corridor, peering apprehensively into the kennels.

I felt her need instantly and knew I had to help her.

I wagged my tail, not too exuberantly, so she wouldn't be afraid.

As she stopped at my kennel, I blocked her view from a little accident I had in the back of my cage.

I didn't want her to know that I hadn't been walked today.

Sometimes the shelter help gets too busy and I didn't want her to think poorly of them.

As she read my kennel card, I hoped that she wouldn't feel sad about my past.

I only have the future to look forward to and want to make a difference in someone's life.

She got down on her knees and made little kissy sounds at me.

I shoved my shoulder and side of my head up against the bars to comfort her.

Gentle fingertips caressed my neck. She was desperate for companionship.

A tear fell down her cheek as I raised my paw to assure her that all would be well.

Soon my kennel door opened and her smile was so bright that I instantly jumped into her arms.

I would promise to keep her safe.

I would promise to always be by her side.

I would promise to do everything I could to see that radiant smile and sparkle in her eyes.

I was so fortunate that she came down my corridor.

So many more are out there who haven't walked the corridors.

So many more to be saved.

At least I could save one.

TEN FAVORS A DOG ASKS OF MAN

From Chicagoland Dog Rescue

1. My life lasts between ten and 15 years. Every separation from you means suffering for me. Think about this before you decide whether or not to take me.
2. Give me time to understand what you are asking of me.
3. Instill confidence in me. I thrive on it!
4. Do not be angry with me for a long time, and do not lock me up for punishment. You have your work, your pleasure, your joy. I have only you.
5. Talk often to me. Even if I do not understand you completely, I do understand the tone of your voice when you talk to me.
6. Know that no matter how I am treated, I shall never forget it.
7. Keep in mind, before you hit me, that my jaws could crush the knuckles of your hand with ease, but that I do not make use of them.
8. Before you scold me when working with me, consider: perhaps I am uncomfortable from digesting my last meal; perhaps I was exposed to the sun for too long, or perhaps I have a worn-out heart.
9. Take care of me when I am old. You, too, are going to be old one day.
10. Be with me when my going gets rough. Everything is easier for me when you are beside me.



SMELLING A STORM: CAN DOGS PREDICT THE WEATHER?

You see your dog pacing, nervous, agitated on a perfectly sunny day. But the weather forecast says storms are coming.

Do dogs have a sixth sense about weather?

Most behaviorists believe dogs do sense climate changes, perhaps through their keen senses of smell and hearing at higher and lower frequencies than humans. Dogs are more attuned to changes in barometric pressure as well. Pressure changes mean weather changes, and perhaps a storm on the horizon.

Some researchers contend dogs also can sense the vibrations caused by thunder through their feet.

``BEING PETTED IS WHAT IT'S ALL ABOUT." Roger Caras

HOWLING TIMES

WCAC vice president Chris Eastwood and friends got up close and personal with wolves at Wolf Park in Lafayette, Indiana. Since pictures are worth a thousand words, let your eyes read what Chris and Wolf Park photographer Monty Sloan saw through the camera lens.



Nancy Reyes and Amy Wukotich get up close with some super-sized cuddlers.



Chris and his new Friends getting acquainted



Doing what comes naturally to a wolf



An agility wolf!

PANCREATITIS: THE DANGERS OF A POTENTIALLY SERIOUS CONDITION

By Toni Ginnetti

Fiesta was my sister's feisty and active Yorkshire terrier, who lived a long and active life to 15. She had no trouble keeping up with the friendly German shepherd who lived next door or keeping in line her little yorkie brother Morgan and larger collie cousins. When Fiesta wasn't being the active in-charge one was the time to worry.

So when she became suddenly lethargic and listless one day in her younger years, my sister naturally became concerned. Good thing she did.

Little Fiesta had pancreatitis, and she needed an overnight stay at the vet to get over the hump of what the vet later admitted could have been a dire outcome. How she contracted it was always a mystery—the condition usually occurs in older, overweight and inactive dogs—although research has found yorkies and silky terriers are among a few breeds at increased risk.

Pancreatitis is, as the name implies, inflammation of the pancreas, the organ that releases certain digestive enzymes. Acute pancreatitis occurs more suddenly and is more severe, while chronic pancreatitis is an ongoing inflammation considered less severe and sometimes without outward symptoms. The acute form can be extremely painful and life-threatening. Vomiting, loss of appetite, weakness, depression and abdominal pain are symptoms and should warrant veterinary care. The chronic form can flare and lead to the acute condition.

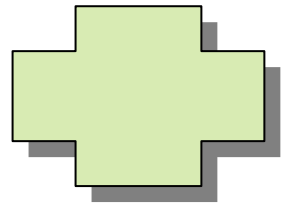
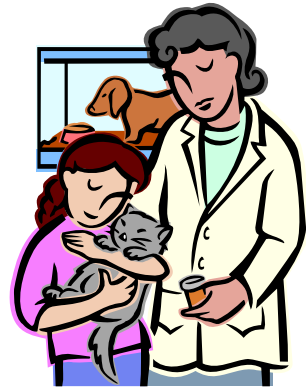
There is some belief that too much fat in a diet contributes to the condition, while low protein diets, especially combined with high fat diets, can also put a dog at risk. While the condition is more common in older, overweight and inactive dogs, some breeds also seem to be at higher risk. They include the terriers, boxers, Cavalier King Charles Spaniels, collies, shelties, briards, miniature poodles and dachshunds.

Treatment in severe cases involves intravenous fluids to hydrate the dog, and sometimes pain medication. In very severe cases, surgery might be necessary if the pancreatic duct becomes blocked. While withholding food traditionally is considered proper treatment to allow the pancreas to rest, newer research has shown recovery seems to be enhanced if food is re-introduced sooner rather than later.

As always in any medication situation, don't hesitate to contact your vet for immediate treatment.

DRUG SENSITIVITY WARNING:

Over the counter medications are fine for humans, but the ASPCA reminds that dogs and cats can have terrible reactions to some common meds, including anti-inflammatory drugs like ibuprofen and naproxen as well as acetaminophen. A drug like pseudophedrine is a common decongestant in cold remedies—but make sure Fido and Felix don't accidentally get a taste.



WEBSITE WATCH

1. www.humanesociety.org/spotlighthumane. On Feb. 7, the Humane Society of the US will hold its annual dinner to raise funds to help in Chicago's campaign to combat dog fighting. HSUS already has established a \$5,000 reward program toward prosecutions and convictions, begun a humane education curriculum in city schools and sponsored dog training classes for inner city youth. Tickets are \$150 for the event at the Sofitel Chicago Water Tower, but HSUS also is seeking donations for their silent auction. Anything from unused airline miles to memorabilia can be donated.



Class Schedule and Upcoming Events

THURSDAY EVENING INDOOR CLASSES

(Held at For Your Canine, 4233 United Parkway, Schiller Park)

Session I: January 8 through Feb. 19

Session II: March 5 through April 16

Session III: April 30 through June 11

Session IV: June 25 through Aug. 6

Session V: Aug. 20 through Oct. 1

Session VI: Oct. 15 through Dec. 3 [No class on Thanksgiving, 2009]

AWARDS DINNER: January 17 at For Your Canine

WCAC UKC TRIALS: July 25, 26; Nov. 7,8

Class Times: Beginner—6:30 to 7:15 pm, Intermediate I—7:25 to 8:10 pm, Advanced—8:20 to 9:05 pm, Intermediate II—9:10 to 9:55 pm.

WCAC BOARD MEETINGS

Meetings are at For Your Canine, Inc. on the second Friday of each month. Members are always welcome. Quiet and well behaved dogs are also welcome. For more information, call 630-415-3022, Ask any Board member (names are on the cover page), or visit our website at www.windycityagility.org.



**Windy City Agility Club
c/o Toni Ginnetti
207 N. Greenwood Ave.
Park Ridge, IL 60068**

INSIDE THIS MONTH:

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- Meet Dr. Sue Liszewski

