



# The Scramble

July, 2010

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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## 20 YEARS OF WINDY CITY AGILITY

By Toni Ginnetti

In the late 1980s, a small group of trainers were offering private lessons in the Rogers Park area of Chicago. Dennis Damon was among them, using his own money to build a full set of equipment according to specs established by the forerunner of what became the United Kennel Club. In 1989, Ken Tatsch of the U.S. Dog Agility Assn. approached Damon's group about putting on an agility demonstration at a major local obedience event to be held that fall.



Treasurer Lou Bogart remembers inviting any and all to participate, even getting participants from the newly-formed Milwaukee Dog Training Club. "The involvement with USDAA led to our group presenting its first Midwest regional competition at Chicago's IKC show in the spring of 1990," Lou said. "That's when we realized the need to re-invent ourselves as a non-profit club."

### Board of Directors

#### Officers

Aliss South, President

Chris Eastwood, Vice Pres.

Blair Dawson, Secretary

Lou Bogart, Treasurer

#### Directors

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Art Cuneo

Nancy Reyes

Jeff Wykowski

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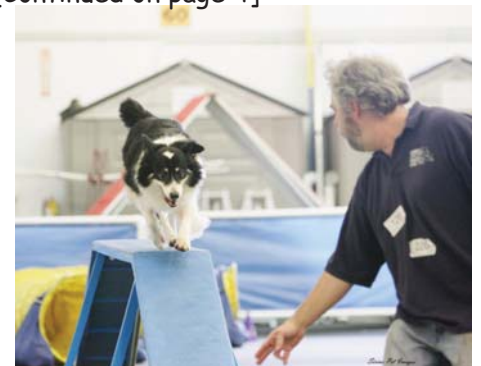
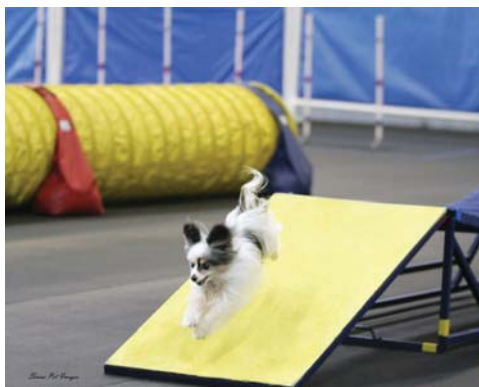
Dolores Valerio

WCAC president Aliss South has been part of the club for many years and has trained three dogs through the club, including her all-time Akita champion Retief. Aliss has instructed beginners classes for years as well.

"I've become a better trainer with each dog," she said. "ObiWan got an AG I title. Klaatu earned an AGII and some CPE [Canine Performance Events] titles. And Retief—wow. [Read his account of his latest achievements at UKC Premier on page 10.] He'll be a hard act for my newest Akita, Neskaya, to follow.

"Retief has never trained anywhere but WCAC, which shows what an all-volunteer group can do. Considering the number of WCAC teams that make the UKC and AKC invitationals, our little group is pretty special."

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## BRAGS AND WAGS



Baseball has Joe DiMaggio's 56-game hitting streak. Now Windy City Agility Club has a streak, too.

It belongs to Jeff Wykowski and MoTu, who put together a streak of consecutive Q's in CPE competition that reached 34 before ending on July 4. Jeff reports MoTu Q'd all four of his Level 4 runs on July 3 competing in For Your Canine's holiday trial, then Q'd his first run on July 4 in the Full House competition, getting the streak to 34. Then came a tricky Jackpot with ``a diabolical closing gamble," as Jeff puts it. Only one of 18 dogs competing qualified. But MoTu started a new streak after that, getting Q's in his last two runs July 4—sort of his own closing July 4 fireworks.

Aliss South's Retief keeps adding to his many honors with another GRACH4 title earned in June. At the UKC Premier event held recently in Indiana, Retief won a third place in AGII division 3. ``Not bad for an old guy competing against 50 border collies," Aliss said. `` Sometimes accuracy triumphs over speed." [See page 10]

Congratulations are in order to a number of WCAC members who titled at the club's June trial. They included AGI Elway, trained and loved by Gail Kalina and daughter Kathy.

Terri Rice and her pup, Joan Lester and her Boston and Diane Lauer and Bobbi-Jo earned titles as well. See page 9 for their smiles. And one more high in trial ribbon went to Dino and Kim DeBenedictis.

Trial chairman Nancy Reyes found a non-agility venue for her dog Cha-Cha's first title, her German Shepherd now an AKC rally novice title-holder.

And Sonja Lund's miniature Schnauzer Skeeter is another rally star, earning her RAE6 title on July 4. [Skeeter and her ribbons on page 9].



MoTu and Jeff Wykowski had a double-win May 22 when they won High In Trial honors the same day they earned their UKC agility champion title.

## CLUB NEWS

From the board comes news that Lisa Bobis has replaced director Barb Krynski, who resigned in June.

Sad news comes from several members who had to say good bye to their companions. They include Nancy Saia, who lost her loving miniature poodle Gina; Sonja Lund, who lost her darling Schnauzer Schiess and Donna and Jeff Wykowski, who took their devoted border collie Corky to the Bridge in mid-July.

Marian Gabriel lost her golden retriever Ginnie in July as well. Her tribute is on page 7.

Those of us lucky enough to have known Gina, Schiess, Corky and Ginnie have our own fond memories. Ginnie and Corky were classmates of my first agility dog, Missy. Ginnie won many titles in her life. Corky was a special star in her own right, who earned an AGII title—but not before a year of dedication from Donna getting her to overcome her anxiety about the A-frame. I remember watching Gina fly through a trial at the IKC show in Chicago and admiring her skill and Nancy overcoming her own nerves. And Schiess was a steady champion — but more the apple of Sonja's patient eye. We miss them all and send our condolences.

## MEET THE MEMBERS

### BLAIR DAWSON

It didn't take Blair Dawson long to get into the fine print of WCAC. She joined in January, 2009 and last fall ran for the club secretary post.

**LET'S GET PERSONAL:** I'm a single Chicagoan who grew up (for the most part) outside Elburn, Il. I'm a practicing attorney at a medium sized law firm in the Loop specializing in professional liability insurance coverage and monitoring for Lloyd's in London. My focus is on pension professionals, including actuaries, accountants, third-party administrators, etc.

**BESIDES AGILITY I LOVE TO:** run, as does my favorite running buddy, Raleigh. Raleigh has helped me train for a variety of fun runs and half-marathons. Our next big challenge is the 2010 Chicago Marathon!

**I JOINED WINDY CITY:** I believe we started taking classes with WCAC in Session 1 of 2009.

**I JOINED BECAUSE:** Raleigh responds very well to training and really enjoys it. And frankly, I enjoy the bonding time with him. We ran out of classes to take at the Anti-Cruelty Society and I searched for other alternatives. We tried agility classes in the city but were not impressed. I searched the internet and found WCAC. WCAC has been a great discovery for both of us. We both really enjoy the people, the classes, the obstacles, and of course, Rals has an extra soft spot in his heart for the extra treats!

**MY DOG IS:** Raleigh, an American bulldog/lab mix—or so I was told. I'm sure he's a composite of at least a dozen other breeds. Suffice it to say he's the perfect mix for me.

**MY FIRST DOG WAS:** a schnauzer/poodle mix named Don Henry (a/k/a Hank) after my grandfathers, as a joke. Hank as in the picture well before I was and adopted me instantly. He was a great dog, and I can only hope Raleigh has as long and as happy a life as Hank—18+ years!

**MY FIRST AGILITY DOG WAS:** Raleigh. He loves it and knows exactly where we're going on Thursday nights. He'll sleep until we're about a mile from the facility, and then he's up, alert and whining up a storm. We may not win any championships any time soon but his anticipation for class and sheer joy is all the reward I need.

**THE THING I LOVE MOST ABOUT MY DOG IS:** Raleigh is my best pal. Everything I need and want in a four-legged companion is in Raleigh. He snuggles up, looks great, runs far, listens well and is loved by all. What more could a dog owner ask for?



Blair and Raleigh

**MY FAVORITE FICTIONAL DOG IS:** It would be a tie between Snoopy (a dog who communicates with a bird) and Brian (a dog with a sharper sense of humor than me.)

**MY DOG IS BETTER THAN ANY OTHER AT:** pulling at my heartstrings and managing to work his way into almost every aspect of my life. And frankly, almost every aspect of my friends' and family's lives. I suppose he's the master manipulator and we are all willing puppets.

**I'M BETTER THAN ANYONE AT:** getting to the point and avoiding drama. I'm a born pragmatist and pride myself on identifying a problem and coming up with a viable solution. That may well be why I gravitated to my career.

**DON'T ASK MY DOG TO:** sleep on the floor rather than the couch or my lap. I'm quite sure he weighs 50 pounds but he couldn't care less about my legs falling asleep!

(Continued on page 4)

## 20 YEARS OF WINDY CITY AGILITY

Continued from page 1

“Of course, it isn't all about competition,” Aliss said. “Many of us enjoy competing occasionally, regularly or almost maniacally. Just as many don't compete, just enjoying the time spent with our dogs and watching them having fun playing on toys. Fun should be the main result we get from our classes. If we and the dogs aren't having fun, something is wrong.

“I enjoy teaching beginner classes,” Aliss said. “It is so great to see dogs making progress—often faster than their people partner—and shy or fearful dogs opening up to the experience and blossoming.

“When you teach, you also never stop learning. You also remember where your problems were and try to help students avoid them. Barb Krynski yelled at me for six months to ‘stand up straight and don't crouch’, and I find myself telling students the same thing. Sue Eastwood took hold of my shoulders and walked me through a reverse flow pivot over and over again until I finally got it.

“Another great thing about agility venues is the camaraderie among competitors. Most people are very friendly and willing to help each other, and especially willing to nurture the newcomers. If you do even a moderate number of trials, you tend to see the same people and invite each other into their lives. People of all ages get together and enjoy their sport.”

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## THOUGHTS ON A DECADE OF WINDY CITY AGILITY

By Chris Eastwood

A blessing to all the dogs (too numerous, unfortunately, to mention—including my own) who I had the joy and privilege of being in the company of and working with over the years who are now waiting at The Bridge. They are what drove us to this place, and they are what keeps us coming back—the elusive joy of “dancing with our dog.”

Our first night in agility when Barb Krynski showed Abby what a dogwalk was and how to do it.

Anna Ogawa's sweetheart Rommel, who caused us some financial concern because he attacked the weave poles with such abandon that he broke at least one at every trial. (“Rommel changes the architecture of the building every time he runs.” Chris Eastwood.) What a great dog!

Kim DeBenedictis' near lock on High In Trial every...freakin'....time! (Except when Jeff Wykowski and MoTu beat out Kim and Dino at times in the last two years.)

My Abby's first run

My Abby's first Q.

My Abby's first title.

Abby (eventually) and my Lea's U-ACHX.

(Continued on page 10)

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## MEET THE MEMBERS: BLAIR DAWSON

Continued from page 3

WHEN MY DOG IS AROUND, HIDE THE: beef! I think the only thing Raleigh has ever stolen off the table was a big hunk of leftover beef I heated up for dinner and had sitting on the coffee table (yes, I'm a total bachelorette at times.) I went to answer the door and when I turned around moments later, he had the beef between his paws under the table and licking it furiously. The fact he didn't take off with it makes me believe he had no idea he was doing anything wrong.

## OBSERVATIONS ON LIFE WITH AN ALLERGY DOG

By Tom Francis

Issues that accompany an allergy dog can range from simple annoyance to heartbreak. Our experience has run the gamut, and over the years several ideas have helped us to manage our dog's quality of life. Some are common knowledge while others are our own "improvisations" born of necessity. We share them in hopes of helping others with allergy dogs.

**Disclaimer:** We are not medically trained. We are not experts. We are just dog owners who, while trying to improve our dog's quality of life have kept track of things that have worked—at least for us. Past performance is no indication of future returns. Your mileage may vary!

**General observations:**

1. Allergies are not cured. They are managed. Accept the fact you have a task that you will need to attend to for the life of your dog, and that there are few constants. Conditions will vary with the seasons, diet, exercise, the amount of stress/excitement your dog is experiencing at the moment, and all can change as your dog ages.
2. Allergens can be things the dog comes in physical contact with, inhales or ingests (food, treats, treasures found during walks.) I am reminded of a cartoon that shows an owner explaining to his dog, "yes, I know it is 100 percent organic — but it is also a dead squirrel."
3. Allergens are cumulative and have a threshold level below which there are usually no outward manifestations. Once the cumulative factors exceed the threshold, the common allergy symptoms become apparent. These include, in no particular order, watery eyes, licking, scratching, gnawing/nibbling their pads, feet or other body parts, decrease in energy or enthusiasm and others.
4. The cumulative nature of allergies is what makes them very difficult to identify. For example, your dog's worst allergen may be present in your house year round, but other lesser allergens may not be, so there are no outward signs. As seasons change, a few minor allergens are introduced, and the dog that was just below the threshold is now over it and begins showing all the outward signs. The owner then goes on a chase for "what just changed" (the minor allergens) while the biggest problem is the major allergen that was there year round. Example: baby powder—what could be safer? The leading brand is "100 percent pure corn starch." Corn allergies anyone?
5. An allergy panel performed by your vet or an allergy specialist can sometimes help identify and quantify the substances your dog is reacting to. These panels can easily cost \$800 to \$1,000.
6. Diet can be a major factor, not only in your dog's allergies but in his total well being and strength of his immune system. The effect of diet can be evaluated on a trial and error basis or by limited ingredient diets to "raw" diets.
7. Lawn chemicals are all around us and can be a major problem. In fact, they ruined a vacation for us. We stopped at a gas station and saw a large dog exercise area AND a fenced-in play area, big enough for Frisbee and other games. How cool! But something seemed odd, and I didn't know what it was until our dog, who lives for Frisbee, made two enthusiastic retrievals and then dropped the Frisbee and ran to the fence line and followed it to the nearest gate. She wanted out as fast as possible. It was then I noticed the grass—it was absolutely beautiful and lush, with nary a weed in sight. The only way that happens at a commercial site if massive use of lawn chemicals. Our dog ended up having to be coned AND under constant surveillance for the next 10 days—and we gave up on our vacation plans after two days.



## OBSERVATIONS ON LIFE WITH AN ALLERGY DOG

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8. Stress, excitement about a person, toy or activity can trigger allergic reactions, too. It's common to see perfectly healthy dogs at the start line of an agility run looking like a beast with an itchy infestation of ``cooties." It can be the excitement of the moment pushing their allergy threshold. (Exhibit A—watch my dog at the next trial!)

9. Physical pain or discomfort also plays a role. More is being published about how even minor injuries, particularly to the spinal cord, can contribute to allergic reactions.

10. After all is said and done, the main issue often becomes protecting the dog from self-inflicted wounds, which pose the risk of infection, which require antibiotics, which create another jolt for the dog's immune system, digestive tract and organs. Conversely, boosting your dog's immune system can aid in managing allergies.



With all that in mind, here are ideas we have adopted. The techniques we use at any given time and how often depend on the time of year and severity of reactions.

1. Tea time anyone? If allergies make your dog attack his feet, keep your dog's feet clean and provide a refreshing rinse that takes his mind off the itching. We keep a container of strong chamomile tea in the refrigerator. When our dog comes in, we first use a cool water rinse followed by a soaking in the tea. The cold temperature is a welcome relief from the itching and also offers some medicinal benefits. Dry gently with a soft towel when done.

2. Instead of rinsing afterwards, consider using booties for your dog during the worst part of allergy season. We've done this for several years during the November—December mold season. Our dog has gotten to the point where she ``knows" when mold counts are high and will refuse to go out unless we put on her booties.

3. While indoors, baby socks serve double duty. They provide a barrier from licking and chewing and also help prevent the dog from ingesting any meds you may have applied. Secure loosely with a vet wrap or Velcro strips. If you come into the room and find the socks are wet, you know your dog has been at it, but at least there is minimal damage and he hasn't licked off (and ingested) the meds.



4. Speaking of meds, natural aloe can be very soothing. The problem is most aloe formations in drugstores have added ingredients and are labeled with warnings about ingestion. A much better choice is aloe from a vitamin shop that is made for internal use.

5. Dandelions are desirable! Dandelions are a sign of a natural lawn without chemicals. But if the dandelions appear twisted and wilted, you can be sure they have been treated recently with chemicals. An ``impeccable" lawn is a strong indication of regular chemical treatment and should be a ``no-go" for your dog.

6. A cone or Elizabethan collar isn't a welcome device but sometimes the only alternative. Keep one on hand for times when your dog is alone or can't be monitored. There are alternatives, including inflatable or stiff-neck braces. With any of these, remember to keep them clean because it's in direct contact with your dog's saliva.

7. Another novel ``cone alternative" is an audible signal device that signals when your dog is actively chewing or itching. Our needs have been met by a simple ``Bear Bell" which backpackers use to make noise on a trail to alert wildlife of their approach. It's especially helpful for the dog who wants to wander to another room to ``hide" while doing something ``bad." Bear Bells can be found at camping stores like REI.

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## REMEMBERING.....GINNIE

UACHX FIRESIDE VIRGINIA BLUEBELL OA, OAJ, NAC-V, O-NGC-V, RL1-AOE, RLV-AOE-V

Delta Society Pet Partner, Rainbow Therapy Dog.

April 14, 1997—July 8, 2010 (Not long enough)

### CELEBRATE LIFE!

By Marian Gabriel

Ginnie was born in my house and soon became a wonderful little red puppy who loved to retrieve. When she was 4 months old, I sent her and one of her litter mates to live on a large kennel property in Virginia. The litter mate thrived there, but Ginnie was clearly miserable. After 6 months, I bought her back. She came home with fears and baggage, but the first time we met after her return, she heard my voice, ran to me and covered me with kisses. I promised her she would stay with me forever.

She needed a formal name. She'd been ``Virginia." I looked at her and thought of seemed to suit her. After Ginnie's death, I song called ``Virginia Bluebell" on an album as much as it describes the flower. Here's ``Pretty little thing, sometimes you gotta you're made of...'Cause the way you hang bell."



``Ginnie" since day 1, so I wanted the name to include a wildflower called the Virginia Bluebell. It somehow learned from a friend that Miranda Lambert has a called ``Revolution.' The whole song describes Ginnie the refrain:

look up...And let the world see all the beauty that your head, nobody can tell...You're my Virginia Bluebell."

Over the years we worked hard to overcome her baggage. She became a therapy dog and made hundreds of visits to special needs children, hospice patients and a lot of people in between. We worked hard at agility and eventually earned titles far beyond my wildest imagination when we started. It wasn't always easy, but she loved me and would do anything in her power to please me. I knew the little red puppy who loved to retrieve was still inside Ginnie somewhere, and I was determined to liberate her.

We lost Ginnie to lymphoma. She touched a lot of lives during her time here. Somewhere in the universe there is a little red puppy who loves to retrieve, running and playing with so many of her friends. I miss you, baby girl. I'll see you on the other side when it's my turn.

## OBSERVATIONS ON LIFE WITH AN ALLERGY DOG .....Continued from page 6

8. **Drugs.** While some drugs used to treat allergies are benign, others involve making a decision between quality of life and length of life, since these ``miracle" drugs can be damaging to internal organs of a dog. A trusted, well-informed veterinarian is your best source of information on the alternatives and their pros and cons. There are also holistic and herbal approaches that can be effective.
9. **Has your dog experienced any physical injury or discomfort?** We periodically take our dog to a vet who performs a ``nose to tail" checkup of her joints and muscles. She is able to apply orthopedic, massage or chiropractic treatments, depending on what she feels best for the various ``dings" she finds. I think ``dings" are a way of life for agility dogs. During one particularly bad allergy season, we took our dog for an exam, and for the next few days she was a different dog, from an allergy standpoint. The vet later confirmed that physical pain and discomfort can indeed be a cumulative factor in pushing a dog over the allergy threshold, and that ``adjusting" the spine, in particular, can make a significant difference in reactions to allergies.
10. **Keep a daily log during your dog's allergy season.** With all the variables, a daily log is a valuable tool in sorting out all the ups and downs of your dog's reactions. Keeping track of diet, new treats, activities, places visited, meds, treatments, etc. can all help improve your understanding and ability to manage the quality of your dog's life.
11. **What's in the air?** <http://www.aaaai.org> tracks pollen and mold counts throughout the season. You can sign up for a daily report via e-mail. Keep the daily info with your log book.
12. **ASK!** Windy City Agility Club members have seen it all and are a great resource for ideas and suggestions. You can get as many ideas as there are members, and you may find several that work for you and your dog.

**NOTE:** Special thanks to Tilley Francis for helping us learn more about dog allergies than we ever wanted to know!

# HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO US!



WINDY CITY AGILITY IS 20 YEARS OLD, AND DURING MANY OF THOSE YEARS, PHOTOGRAPHER KAREN A. HOLLIS HAS CAPTURED ITS ``HISTORY" IN PHOTOS LIKE THESE. THANKS TO HER AND SIRIUS PET IMAGES FOR RECORDING OUR FUN AND ACHIEVEMENTS.





# HOW ABOUT A BRAG!



Skeeter Lund set off sparklers on July 4 when she earned her AKC Rally Advanced Excellent title—a sixth time!! The Title: RAE6



A salute to Joan Lester and Bridget after earning UKC AGI honors during WCAC's June trial.



Terri Rice and her dog [left] were among the honorees who earned titles at WCAC's June trials.



At right, Windy City member Diane Lauer and Bobbi Jo earned their first UKC title, AGI.

## ALL-STAR STATUS: A DOG'S EYE VIEW OF UKC PREMIER

By Retief of the CDT [and Aliss South]

Mom said I should write about the All-Star Invitational and UKC Premier we went to July 8-11 in Richmond, Ind. I'll try, but it's hard to work this computer thing with the tips of your toenails.

We had a long car ride (not my favorite thing) and stayed in a place called a motel. I missed my own bed and toys but slept next to mom to protect her from the strange place. The next day we went to a building where I saw my crate set up, so I knew it was an agility trial. I like doing agility! Mom told me it was a competition of the top 50 dogs in each level of agility. I got to compete in all three levels but didn't see any other Akitas there—lots of poodles and border collies, though.

While I was waiting my turn, a lady came and stuck a long fuzzy-ended thing in my mouth. I was polite, but it was kind of icky. I got a treat afterward, so that was okay. Lots of dogs got fuzzy things stuck in their mouths. Mom said the lady was collecting DNA samples for a dog cancer study.

Mom and a lot of other moms weren't happy with the courses. From my view, they didn't run smoothly and weren't much fun to run. A lot of the fast dogs had problems.

The good news is I won a big medal on a ribbon to wear around my neck! In Agility II, division 3, I got third place. Not bad for an 8-year-old Akita. Mom was so proud of me and gave me lots of treats and hugs.

It was terribly hot in Indiana. Those of us with double coats were really suffering. At night we walked across the street to a place serving frozen custard. They gave me a nice dish of custard with a Milk Bone on top. It was so nice and cold in the heat. I licked every bit of it and crunched the Milk Bone!

The next two days were the Premier with courses that were much more fun to run. I got four perfect 200 scores, one 195 [that was totally Mom's fault] and knocked down a bar [that was totally my fault—but I was getting tired in the heat.]

It was nice to come home, except for one thing. While I was gone, my sister ate the feet off my favorite squeaky toy pig and it doesn't squeak anymore! That wasn't very nice of her. Little sisters can be such a pain.



### THOUGHTS ON A DECADE OF WINDY CITY AGILITY (Continued from page 4)

Looking over to see Aliss South's Retief had Lea's head (yes, her whole head) in his mouth during a momentary lapse on the handler's part—and they had a ``bad look'' between them.

Barb K's Zap finishing a run with a single bar jump and Zap clearing the jump AND the finish line with a good three feet to spare...WOW.

Abby peeing on the course.

Abby pooping on the course.

Abby....I think you get the idea.

Abby's U-ACHX.

Lea's first Q.

Lea's U-ACHX

Lea at The Bridge and no longer part of WCAC.

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## SUMMER SAFETY TIPS

Summer may be all about sun and surf and vacations, but it is also a time to be extra vigilant about a dog's well-being. We all know dogs ``cool off'' by panting, but heat and humidity can make it more difficult for a dog to cope. They can only pant so fast.

Heat stress and heat stroke can occur quickly if a dog's temperature, normally around 101 or 102, rises to 105. At that point or higher, a dog can't get sufficient oxygen to tissues. A temperature higher than 108 can lead to kidney, liver and gastrointestinal cell damage. Be alert to the signs of distress—rapid breathing and heart beat, drooling saliva and a dry mouth and nose. The gums may become grayish instead of red. And a dog may have a frightened or panicked expression.

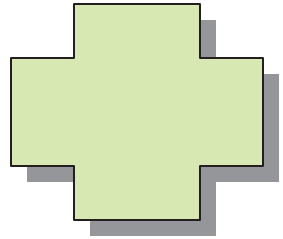
Remember that heat stroke is an emergency and must be treated immediately. Try to get the dog's temperature down even before getting him to a vet. A tub of cool water but not ice water or soaking with a garden hose are in order—and an ice pack at the base of the skull can help cool the head and brain.

Also avoid giving large amounts of water because a dog in heat distress can bloat. Instead, offer ice cubes.

A few things to remember, too:

- black coats absorb more heat than light coats
- double coated dogs retain heat more
- overweight and older dogs have a harder time dealing with heat
- short-muzzled dogs can't pant as effectively

Take it easy on hot days and if you are outside with your dog, make sure there is extra water for him. A refrigerated wet bandana for him is a good idea, too.



## THOUGHTS ON A DECADE OF WINDY CITY AGILITY (Continued from page 10)

Nancy Reyes' Bandit, in one of the funniest moments I can remember, completed a turn and Nancy was unclear with her directions. Bandit decided to do the thing that was most productive to him, which was to do a very pretty sit on the closest available obstacle—which was the teeter. A very pretty sit, and it brought the house down.

Abby, from the point he started, being so ``happy'' as he'd run his courses with WCAC through the years. The place we started. The place where all our original successes were recorded.

I've been privileged to be part of the Windy City Agility Club matrix for almost 10 years and my hope is we can continue to be a vehicle for folks who are interested in dog training and dog agility in particular.



**The hot, summer days - Dog Days - which Sirius was thought to cause, run from July 3 to August 11th. The three stars of Orion's Belt point at the Dog Star, Sirius, in Canus major at Orion's heels. It is best seen in the northern hemisphere during winter, between December and March.**

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## Class Schedule and Upcoming Events

### THURSDAY EVENING INDOOR CLASSES

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

Session I: January 7 through Feb. 18

Session II: March 4 through April 15

Session III: April 29 through June 10

Session IV: June 24 through Aug. 5

Session V: Aug. 19 through Sept. 30

Session VI: Oct. 14 through Dec. 2 [No class on Thanksgiving, 2010]

**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](http://www.windycityagility.org). Windy City Agility Club reserves the right to cancel classes, trials, meetings and events or change dates, times or location without notice.



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

### INSIDE THIS MONTH:

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- Summer Safety
- Remembering....

