



JUDGES FOR SPECIALTY

It is time to select judges for the specialty. Send your names for Conformation to Lynda Williams. Send your names for Obedience to Pat Ingram. Choice of judges will take place at the July meeting which will include a meeting of the Bench and Obedience Committees. You can nominate judges also at the meeting.

JULY MEETING

July 29th Thursday 7:00 pm at Rita Robins home. 3920 Merritt Rd, Sachse TX. This will be a bench meeting and we will also vote on specialty judges for both conformation and obedience THAT NIGHT. This will also be an ice cream social. Folks are allowed to bring their dogs per Rita.

FROM THE NORTH:

Beginning at the intersection of Hwy 190 and Hwy 78 - Travel east on Hwy 190 (which becomes Northeast Pkwy) to Pleasant Valley. This is the second red light after the Hwy 78 & Hwy 190 intersection. Turn left (north) on Pleasant Valley. Just past the FFA training center, Pleasant Valley merges with Miles Road and becomes a four lane blacktop. Take a hard right turn to stay on Pleasant Valley and continue until you come to a four-way stop. Turn left onto Merritt Road and travel about 0.5 miles. Turn right between the cemetery and the "Cubs" baseball field. If you miss the turn at Miles/ Pleasant Valley, stay on Miles until you get to a four way stop at Sachse Road. Turn right and travel east to Merritt Road (just past Happy Acres Horse Farm). Turn right (south) on Merritt Rd. .

FROM THE SOUTH:

From I20 in Mesquite take Hwy 635 north to Centerville Road. This is the second exit past Town East Mall. Go right on Centerville Road approximately 7 miles until it dead ends into Northeast Parkway. Turn left on Northeast Parkway and travel less than 1 mile to the first traffic light which will be Pleasant Valley. Turn right onto Pleasant Valley and travel 1.3 miles. Right after you pass the Garland Shooting Range and an FFA training facility, there is a "Y" intersection where Miles Road merges with Pleasant Valley. Continue as above.

Rita
ph: 972-412-4967
cell: 214-632-8294

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

It is time to think about next year's slate of officers. If you are interested in serving on the nominating committee or are interested in serving on the board itself, please call Judy Word or Alan Meyer.

Puppy Field Trophy

There has been a request to retire the puppy field trophy from the person whose husband was honored by it. It was however donated by other people. A discussion will be held at the next meeting as to how to handle this issue.

IN MEMORIAM

Amigold Hot Tamale CD SH WCX "Scorch" (Thornton) 9-17-92 -- 6-4-04

CH Highmark's With All My Heart (Word) 6/9/2004

HRCH U-UD Camouflage's Legacy of Shadow UD MH WCX (Combs) 8/8/1990-6/21/2004

HE JUST WANTS TO SAY "HI!"

By Suzanne Clothier

Sitting quietly on the mall bench beside my husband, I was minding my own business when the man approached. I glanced up as the man sat next to me. He was a bit close for my comfort, so I edged a little closer to my husband who, busy reading a book, ignored me. Still feeling a bit uncomfortable with the strange man so close, I then turned my head slightly away from him, politely indicating I was not interested in any interaction. To my horror, the man leaned over me and began licking my neck while rudely groping me.

When I screamed and pushed him away, my trouble really began. My husband angrily threw me to the ground, yelling at me "Why did you do that? He was only trying to be friendly and say hi! What a touchy bitch you are! You're going to have to learn to behave better in public."

People all around us stared and shook their heads sadly. I heard a few murmuring that they thought my husband should do something about my behavior; some even mentioned that he shouldn't have such a violent woman out in public until I'd been trained better. As my husband dragged me to the car, I noticed that the man who had groped me had gone a bit further down the mall and was doing the same thing to other women.

This is a silly scenario, isn't it? First, anyone who knows me knows that I would never be in a mall except under considerable duress. More seriously, no rational human being would consider my response to the man's rudeness as inappropriate or vicious. By invading my personal space, the man crossed the lines of decent, civilized behavior; my response would be considered quite justified.

That my husband might punish me for responding to such rudeness by screaming and pushing the offender away is perhaps the most ridiculous aspect of this scenario. If he were to act in this way, there would be no doubt in the minds of even the most casual observers that his ego was of far greater importance than my safety or comfort, and that he was sorely lacking even rudimentary empathy for how I might be feeling in this situation.

Fortunately for me, this scenario is completely imaginary. Unfortunately for many dogs, it is a very real scenario that is repeated far too often. Inevitably, as the owners who have allowed their dogs to act rudely retreat from the situation, there are comments made about "that aggressive dog" (meaning the dog whose space had been invaded) and the classic comment, usually said in hurt tones, "He only wanted to say hi!"

Years ago, a friend of mine in Texas placed a Greyhound with a supposedly knowledgeable person in the Northeast. This person gives seminars all over the world on the care and training of a certain animal, so my friend felt comfortable placing this wonderful hound with her. Less than one week later, my friend received an hysterical call in which the supposed expert was threatening to have this Greyhound put to sleep for being aggressive. Since I was the closest resource, my Texan friend asked me to see what I could do, making it clear that this was one of the best Greyhounds that she had ever rescued - he had demonstrated incredible tolerance for all other dogs and animals.

When I spoke with the new owner, I asked what was going on. Her response was sadly classic: "Well, Champ is quite aggressive. For example, he'll just be laying on the dog bed and my two Golden Retrievers come over to say 'hi' and then he just attacks them. It's awful!"

My first tip off that the Greyhound was totally blameless was her comment that the Golden Retrievers were just coming over to say "hi." Generally speaking, dogs who live together don't walk over to each other to repeatedly say hello, no more than every time you walk in a room you walk over to a family member and say hello by getting right into their face.

Further questioning revealed that the body posture of the two Golden Retrievers while saying "hi" was very upright, ears

forward, tails up and wagging very slowly - a confrontational stance, not a greeting. The Greyhound would often initially turn his head away, but when the two Golden Retrievers began sniffing at him and poking him, he would growl softly. Then, as they persisted, the hound would finally leap up with a roar. Despite her hysterical descriptions of the "fights," I was able to get her to define the amount of damage done by the Greyhound - none. As we talked on, the picture came in more clearly: the two Golden Retrievers were quite spoiled, pushy with other dogs, and decidedly not happy with this new dog in their household. The woman cheerfully admitted that the two Golden Retrievers were not too well trained and that she sometimes had trouble controlling them around other animals, but "they were so sweet, and there isn't an aggressive bone in their bodies!" she told me.

The Greyhound, on the other hand, she viewed as a fierce, aggressive and dangerous animal who she now had muzzled at all times. I thought for a bit about trying to educate this woman about dog behavior, but decided the kindest thing to do for this hound was to just go and rescue him. So I did, and by the time I'd driven home with this incredible dog, he'd been renamed Beckett and he stayed with me for almost two years until I placed him with a friend who adores him. As for his "aggression," I never saw a hint of it in any situation.

While there are many frustrating aspects of being a dog trainer, one of the most disturbing scenarios is the situation where a dog is acting appropriately but nonetheless is punished (in the name of "training") by humans who do not understand what constitutes normal canine behavior and responses.

Sadly, normal behavior is quickly labeled "problem" behavior, and the dog is now a "problem dog." Depending on the skill and awareness of the trainer or instructor, the dog may be merely puzzled or irritated by well meaning attempts to desensitize or re-condition the behavior or actually punished quite severely using any number of horrific and senseless techniques.

In Beckett's case, a lack of understanding nearly cost him his life. Had I not intervened, his extremely uninformed owner would have had him put to sleep as aggressive. In most cases, the true problem - the rude dog and rude owner who allowed his dog to be rude - is not even noticed or addressed.

This following is an actual e-mail from a concerned owner (reprinted by permission). While I've changed details in order to protect the innocent (the dog!), it is an excellent example of an owner who has tried hard to do well with and for her dog, and of instructors who mean well but fail on a very deep level when it comes to understanding normal canine interactions. (Note: all bold emphasis is mine. Pay attention to these words.)

Dear Suzanne:

You don't know me, but L. is a friend of mine, and she suggested I write to you regarding the strange behavior of my dog. I have a female (spayed) golden retriever, 3 years old, named Cream. Cream comes from good lines (champion show), and is "almost" your typical golden: sweet, goofy, lovable, loves ALL people. Recently, Cream became a certified therapy dog through the Delta Society.

*Yet Cream has one problem: she hates young, hyper dogs. **If a dog starts jumping all over Cream, Cream gets aggressive - starts to growl, shows some teeth, and if the dog doesn't take the hint after a few seconds, Cream will "attack" the dog.** Every time this has happened, it's happened very quickly, and I get Cream off the dog immediately (and "correct" her - laying her down, holding her muzzle, shaking her a bit, saying "NO!" very sternly, etc.). Cream doesn't even like young dogs to lick her - she snaps at them if they do.*

*Now, **Cream only displays this aggressive behavior with young, hyper dogs.** Cream has regular dog pals that she plays with almost daily - they wrestle, play bite, and run around together. Some of the dogs she plays with are older, some are the same age, some are even younger, the youngest now being about 9 months old. She plays with both sexes, but she does seem to prefer males. (Cream was spayed at 10 months.)*

Cream is in good health. She's on a raw foods diet, ~~had~~ had titer testing this year instead of vaccinations,

had a full blood panel and thyroid check and both were fine, has been CERFed and her eyes are fine. She does have some mild hip dysplasia, but it doesn't bother her, and she shows no symptoms. She's been very well socialized since she's been a pup, and I bring her everywhere I can (shopping malls, parks, sometimes to campus).

Cream's been through lots of obedience classes, beginning when she was a pup at 4 months old in puppy kindergarten. For the past several months she's been going through a basic obedience class with young dogs - I've been trying to recondition her behavior towards young dogs. I've been food rewarding her when she shows no aggressive behavior to a pup.

*It's been going okay, but two weeks ago, a young mastiff puppy got away from her owner, and came charging at Cream. **She crashed into Cream (and it was just because she was over excited - she wasn't being aggressive)** and Cream came up growling and snarling. Then last weekend, a black lab pup did the same thing, and Cream had the same reaction. Throughout the class, Cream won't even look at the puppies - has her back turned toward them the entire time.*

I've got the dog trainers of the class stumped, as they don't really know what to do. Cream's normally such a sweet dog, good with commands, great with people. Cream's also wonderful with children, and has an endless supply of patience with kids - they can pull on her ears, hug her tightly, pull on her tail - and Cream loves it. Cream's fine with dogs who are calm, even friendly towards them, with her tail wagging, and she might even try to get them to play.

Cream has had some bad experiences with dogs. A pit bull jumped out of a car when we were on a walk, and attacked Cream (Cream was about 7 months old). She's had dogs run out of houses and attack her, and dogs who were supposedly tied up, get loose and attack her.

So, do you have any suggestions or theories for us? Well, I'd really appreciate any thoughts you have on our situation.

Lee Anne

Lee Anne tried to be as thorough as possible in presenting Cream's case to me. Her concern was evident, and based on what she presented, she was an owner who spent a lot of time working with and training her dog. From my point of view, the picture she painted was a clear one - Cream was a perfectly normal dog who, from time to time, was forced by rude dogs to draw a line and inform them precisely how rude they had been.

Unfortunately for Cream, her appropriate response to rudeness was misread as aggression, and she was punished. I cannot even begin to fully comprehend the confusion that must flood a dog who has acted appropriately but is punished nonetheless.

If a dog starts jumping all over Cream, Cream gets aggressive - starts to growl, shows some teeth, and if the dog doesn't take the hint after a few seconds, Cream will 'attack' the dog."

There is clear evidence here that Cream never did "suddenly attack" anyone. In a normal progression of warning signs, Cream gave the offending dog a chance to back off. It is only when warning signs were ignored that Cream had to escalate to the threat of violence. That is all her "attacks" on any dog were - threats, not actual attacks with the intent to do harm. Dog who mean to do harm do so with breathtaking speed, and intervention is generally not possible. Though noisy and scary, most "fights" are a series of threats with fully inhibited biting employed by the combatants.

When I had a phone consultation with Lee Anne, one of my first questions was about Cream's "attacks" on other dogs. I wanted to know how much damage she did to the other dog during these "attacks." In his lectures on aggression, Dr. Ian Dunbar urges trainers to always look at what he calls the Fight-Bite Ratio: how many

altercations has your dog been involved in, and how many times has another dog been seriously hurt by your dog?

He is careful to define "seriously hurt" as needing veterinary attention. An accidental puncture or two on the muzzle, head or ear is not a serious injury, merely a by-product of powerful teeth flashing at speed as the dog tries to make his point in a very noisy, dramatic way. The majority of dog-to-dog altercations do not result in serious injury, though they are extremely frightening to witness. Even if the number of fights is quite high, if the number of bites inflicted in those fights is low or zero, then you know that the dog inhibiting his bite - a good sign even though there may be problems that cause the fights and which need resolution.

For all of Cream's "attacks" on other dogs, there had only been one small puncture inflicted on the head, a typical site for an accidental, unintended punch of a tooth. As I suspected from her owner's description, Cream had been well socialized with both people and other dogs and had learned to inhibit her bite; thus, her "attacks" - while alarming to all involved - did not result in any damage to the offending dog.

". . . two weeks ago, a young mastiff puppy got away from her owner, and came charging at Cream. She crashed into Cream (and it was just because she was over excited - she wasn't being aggressive) and Cream came up growling and snarling. Then last weekend, a black lab pup did the same thing, and Cream had the same reaction."

Hidden in this section of Lee Anne's letter is an important notion: that puppies aren't acting rudely, they're just "over-excited." It never fails to amaze me how willing humans are to excuse and rationalize a dog's rude behavior instead of teaching them good manners. Part of developing appropriate social behavior is learning that no matter how excited you may be, there are other folks in the world and certain basic rules of politeness still apply no matter how excited you may be.

During an off-lead play session at our camp, two adolescent dogs began to roughhouse at top speed, resulting in one of them crashing hard into an older dog who'd been minding his own business. With a loud roar, he chased the offender for a few steps to make his point: "Watch where the heck you're going!"

A few minutes later, with the game still going strong, we watched as that same youngster found himself headed once again on a collision course with the older dog. It seemed another crash and altercation were inevitable. To the surprise of many who were watching, the youngster used all of his skills to avoid the crash, neatly swerving past the older dog who made no comment. The puppy had learned that no matter how excited he might be by the game, he still had an obligation to be polite.

We would look with a raised eyebrow at a mother who allowed a child to simply carom around a room bouncing off people and did nothing to calm the child, and who told those her child had shoved and pushed that, "He's just over excited." Just as parents bear some responsibility for their children's actions, dog owners have a responsibility to help their puppies act in an appropriate way - not to excuse rudeness.

Sometimes, this requires that we not allow a young dog (or a dog of any age) to escalate to such a high level of excitement and arousal. As a rule of thumb, the more excited and emotional a dog becomes, the less capable they are of thinking clearly and acting appropriately. (This is also true of all other animals, including people.) Wise handlers know that when emotions are running high, a cool down period is a good choice to avoid problems. Sometimes, helping a young dog learn what is appropriate requires the assistance of a normal, well socialized dog who can make his or her point without leaving anything but a clear message imprinted upon the puppy.

Normal dogs, like normal people, are often incredibly tolerant of the antics of youngsters. The tolerance level is highly individual and dependent upon the dog's experience with puppies. Dogs without much experience with puppies may not be nearly as tolerant as dogs who have seen a lot of puppies come and go.

Tolerance levels are also highly dependent upon the youngster's age; there are different expectations for what

BRAGS

AGILITY

Sooner State Kennel Club -- May 29

Nov.A-JWW-1st

Badgersbrook Texas Hurricane

(Rayshel Horton)

Sooner State Kennel Club May 30

Nov.A-JWW-1st

Badgersbrook Texas Hurricane

(Rayshel Horton)

Sooner State Kennel Club May 31

Nov.A-JWW-2nd

Badgersbrook Texas Hurricane

(Rayshel Horton) **TITLE!!!**

Collie Club of Austin 6/13/2004

Open JWW

U-UD Rockcreek's Morgana Le Fey UD SH OA NAJ

WCX (Frick) **TITLE!!!**

OBEDIENCE

Texarkana Kennel Club June 12, 2004

Novice B -3rd leg

GlenGowan JusCoz All Spiced Up, JH,WC (Williams)

TITLE!!!!!!!!!!

Texarkana Kennel Club June 13, 2004

Novice B -Qualifying Score

GlenGowan JusCoz All Spiced Up, CD JH,WC

(Williams)

CONFORMATION

Texarkana KC - June 12, 2004

Sanctioned B Match

Best in Match

Regatta's Racing Genoa (Gulledge) -

NEW ADDITON

Megan Elizabeth made her entrance on June 2, 2004 and weighed in at 7Lbs 11 oz. Proud parents are Holly and Ross King. Proud sister is Emily Jane.

STUFF FOR SALE

Anyone interested in purchasing used crates (includes Kennel-Aire), exercise pen, pails, puppy feeding pans, and a Golden-size whelping box, please contact Maria Bates at 214-357-0546. I am down to one Golden now and plan to keep it that way during my Golden years.

TOP DOG SHOW AND GO-OBEDIENCE

1138 Pleasant Valley, #D, Garland, 75040

\$6 first entry, \$4 second entry of same dog

Open and utility starts at 8

Novice starts at 12

OBEDIENCE SEMINAR

With Debbie Quigley and Judy Ramsey

Topics range from puppy training through utility.

September 11-12 2004

At Top Dog

Cost-\$170 working participants

\$110 working spouses

\$100 observer both days

\$60 Observer –one day

Contact Karen Bishop at svnrsh@aol.com or (972)414-2040

Mail registration to Karen at 2501 richoak dr., Garland TX 75044.

On Saturday, September 6, 2003 at 3:00pm, the Trophy Committee reviewed the requirements for the CH Gold-Sun's Hurricane Cajun UD, SH, WCX Versatility Trophy. The purpose was to ensure the point schedule was balanced in all performance areas. Below is a summary of the schedule as it currently stands as well as the recommendations made by the committee:

DISCUSSION: The focal point of discussion centered on the number of qualifying legs that would be counted from agility at each level. Presently there are three groups that offer agility trials (AKC, USDAA, and NADAC). Within each level of agility (novice, open, excellent, master) there are four titling classes (standard, jumpers, preferred standard and preferred jumpers). The way the current standing rules read, points may be earned from each titling class from each of the 3 registries.

SUMMARY: Due to the number of points that could potentially be achieved by individuals competing in agility, the trophy committee recommends only two titles (a total of six qualifying legs) from the same level be applicable regardless of the titling class or organization. This recommendation is based on the following:

- 1- There are only two groups from which obedience points may be attained. Each group offers one title at each level.
- 2- There are only two groups from which hunt test points may be attained. Each group offers one title at each level.
- 3- There are only two groups wherein conformation points may be attained.

NOTE: Approved revisions to the versatility trophy will also apply to the Stud Dog & Brood Bitch trophies.

| Performance Area | Current Point Schedule | Proposed Point Schedule | Comments |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------|--|--|
| Conformation: | | | |
| Best in Show | 50 points | | No Change |
| Group Placement | 15 points | Group 1 = 45 points Group 2 = 40 points Group 3 = 35 points Group 4 = 30 points | Revised to add group placements. See note below. |
| Best of Breed | 5 points | 15 points | Revised (+10) |
| Best of Opposite Sex | 4 points | 10 points | Revised (+6) |
| Winners Dog/Bitch | AKC points awarded | | No Change |
| Major Reserve | 1 point | | No Change |
| Minor Reserve | 0.5 points | | No Change |
| | | | |
| AKC/UKC Obedience | | | No Change |
| Tracking: | | | No Change |
| | | | |
| AKC/USDAA/NADAC Agility: | | | |
| Novice Agility | 2 points | | See discussion |
| Open Agility | 3 points | | See discussion |
| Agility Excellent | 7 points | | See discussion |
| Master Agility | 10 points | | See discussion |
| | | | |
| Field Trials: | | | No Change |
| AKC and/or UKC Hunt Tests: | | | No Change |
| GRCA Working Certificates | | | No Change |

DOGS HAVE IT MADE!!

- 1) No one expects you to take a bath every day.
- 2) Your friends never expect you to pay for lunch, dinner or anything else for that matter.
- 3) When it's raining, you can lie around the house (or office) all day and never worry about being fired.
- 4) If it itches, you can reach it.
- 5) And, no matter what itches, no one is offended if you scratch it in public.
- 6) It doesn't bother you if your favorite television show is a rerun.
- 7) You can wear a fur coat and no one thinks you're insensitive.
- 8) April 15 means nothing to you
- 9) People at drive-through windows never charge you for treats.
- 10) Your friends don't think less of you for passing gas.
- 11) A rawhide bone can entertain you for hours.
- 12) No one gets mad if you fall asleep while they're talking.
- 13) As an adult, it's OK if you haven't "amounted to anything" except being a dog.
- 14) The older you get, the more people respect you.
- 15) You can sleep late every day.
- 16) If you grow hair in weird places, no one notices.
- 17) You never get in trouble for putting your head in a stranger's lap.
- 18) There's no such thing as bad food.
- 19) You don't have to worry about good table manners.
- 20) Someone else combs your hair.
- 21) People think you're normal if you stick your head out the window to feel the wind in your hair.
- 22) You're always excited to see the same old people.
- 23) Having big feet is considered an asset.
- 24) If you gain weight, it's someone else's fault.
- 25) Everything smells good to you.
- 26) A garbage can is a fast-food stop.
- 27) No one tells you to wipe your nose because it's wet.
- 28) No matter where you live you own the place.
- 29) Your mate never complains because you whine.
- 30) Puppy love can last.

From the Tailwagger (DOTC)

I THINK I UNDERSTAND THE GAME

by Harry (Ingram)



PICTURES NEEDED FOR GRN

I'm running low on candid shots for the GRNews.

If anyone has candid photos they would like to see published as space permits, please send them to me electronically at GRNews@pacbell.net.

I could use all kinds of pics -- action, puppies, seniors, silly, serious, etc. Yes, I can use digital shots, but they should be high resolution.

OK, the boilerplate stuff: high resolution JPGs only (if you convert to grayscale, they will upload faster) unpublished photos only (this includes the web) if submitting multiple JPGs, please zip include a message giving GRCA permission to use your photo(s) in the GRNews

Thanks and have a great summer everyone!
Sylvia

OBEDIENCE SHOW 'N GO

Sunday, August 8, 2004

Sponsored by friends of the
Dallas-Ft. Worth Metro Golden Retriever Club

Shiloh Road Kennels
3880 Shiloh Road – Midlothian, TX
ph: 972-723-3880

Entry Fees: \$6.00 first entry and \$4.00 for second entry of the same dog

Time: Registration from 7:30am to 11:00am
Judging starts at 8:00am

Classes: Utility, Open and Novice
Open and Utility will be judged in the same ring in groups.
Novice will be judged in a separate ring.

Directions: From the north take Hwy 67 south to Shiloh Road exit. Turn left. Go 1.5 miles. You will come to a "T" the road. Turn right. Go 1.7 miles. Kennel is on the right at 3880 Shiloh Road. Look for the sign out front.

PLEASE NOTE – FACILITY HAS LIMITED INDOOR CRATING!

For More Information Contact Pat Ingram ph: 817-295-4203

Name of Owner(s):

Address:

City:

State:

Zip:

Telephone:

Class(es) Entered:

Dog's Name:

Breed: