



UPCOMING EVENTS

November MEETING-
.2007

SANCTIONED AGILITY
MATCH-NOVEMBER 23

BANQUET-1/20/2008

SPECIALTY- 3/21/2008



Volume 34, Issue 10

November 2007

NOVEMBER MEETING

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 13

MEETING WILL BE AT CENTRAL MARKET AT COIT AND 190.

SOCIAL STARTS AT 6:45 AND MEETING AT 7:00

STATISTICS FOR TROPHIES AND PLAQUES

Info **MUST** be received by 11/15 and for title plaques by 12/30. All submissions are to be made per the approved applications which may be found on the Club's website.

Trophy applications are at <http://www.dfwmgrc.org/Trophy%20Forms/DFWMGRC%20Trophy%20Claim%20Form>.

Title plaque applications are at <http://www.dfwmgrc.org/Trophy%20Forms/DFWMGRC%20Plaque%20Claim%20Form.doc>

Send to Rita Robins, 3920 Merritt, Sachser, TX 75048

SLATE FOR 2008 BOARD

President: Donna Todd

Vice President: Kathy Felix

Treasurer: Linda Miller

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Corres. Secretary: Patti Branch Caldwell

Members at large: John Knapp
David Brown

Newspaper Policies

If you would like a brag in the newsletter, please send it to jfric@aol.com or psych-dog@worldnet.att.net.

If you would like to receive the newsletter by e-mail (pdf format) contact the editor at the above address(es).

If you move, please forward your new address to us directly as well as to the club membership chair.

If you do not receive a newsletter, please contact us directly.

Newsletters are usually available also on the WEB site within a day or two of publication.

All contributions of articles, pictures etc. are welcome

Deadline is the 25th of the month

BRAGS

CONFORMATION

Tyler Texas Kennel Club October 13, 2007

RWB - (6-9 mo. puppy bitch)

Camlin's Hold The Presses

Breeder/Owner Nancy Crowley

Heart of the Plains KC - Lubbock TX, September 29, 2007

WB//BW/BOS

Glengowan's Ash Grove (Ash) (Caldwell/Gear)

Tyler TX KC October 14, 2007

WB/BOS (singles her out)

Glengowan's Ash Grove (Ash) (Caldwell/Gear)

JUNIOR SHOWMANSHIP

Hot Springs, Ar - Sat Sept. 29th

1st in Open Intermediate --

Rayshel Horton

1st in Open Senior and Best Junior -

Mashala Horton (qualified for Eukanuba)

Humble, Tx, Sat Oct. 6

1st in Open Senior and Best Junior -

Mashala Horton

FIELD

Lonesome Dove HRC October 13th

Started leg

Petsan Morgon

Big D Bass Pro Classic October 20 & 21

3rd and 4th UKC Started Legs -

SHR Sheridan's Orig Irish Cream ("Bailey") WC
JH NAP NJP RN CGC (Farmer/Todd) **TITLE!!!**

2 Started legs

U-CH UCD Petsan Morgon CDX WC (Long)

2 started legs

Denali's Aurora Borealis (Long)

2 started legs

Denali's Talkeetna Tess, (Long)

AGILITY

DFW English Springer Spaniel Assn. October 6,

Double Q, 18 points

Glengowan's Man on a Mission (Caldwell/
Couch)

DFWESSA Oct. 7, 2007

EX A Jumpers-1st

U-UD Aerojett's Speaker of Tales UDX RE NA
OAJ SH WCX (Frick)

ExB JWW Preferred 2nd Place EXB Standard
Preferred 3rd Place DOUBLE Q towards PAX
TITLE

REMUDA'S ONE MORE LAST CHANCE AX,
AXJ,AXP,AJP (FELIX)

Open JWW Preferred - Q and 1st Place

Sheridon's Orig Irish Cream WC JH NAP NJP
RN CGC (Bailey) (Todd/Farmer)

Dallas Obedience Training Club

Saturday, 10/13/07

Open Standard - Q, 1st Place

Sheridon's Kahlua N Cream OA OAJ NJP
CGC (Kahlua) (Farmer/Todd) **TITLE!!!!**

Dallas Obedience Training Club

Sunday, 10/14/07

Open Standard Preferred - Q and 1st Place
Sheridon's Orig Irish Cream WC JH NAP NJP
RN CGC (Bailey) (Todd/Farmer)

EX B STANDARD PREFERRED 1st Place

REMUDA'S LUCK OF THE DRAW CDX,MX,
MXJ,AXP,AJP (FELIX)

EX B JWW PREFERRED 1ST PLACE

REMUDA'S ONE MORE LAST CHANCE AX,
AXJ,AXP,AJP (FELIX)

OBEDIENCE

Nth Texas American Pit Bull Terrier Club
(9/30/07)

Open A 1st Place -High in Trial

Harry Houdini CD, RA, JH, WC (Robins)

**SAVE THE DATE
THE 2007 AWARDS BANQUET
WILL BE HELD ON
JANUARY 20TH 2008 (SUNDAY)
AT MACARONI GRILL IN GRAPE-
VINE**

**??? DID YOU KNOW THERE ARE WAYS YOU
CAN HELP ???**

**DALLAS/FORT WORTH METRO GOLDEN RE-
TRIEVER RESCUE**

Here's how:

**With your Tom Thumb Reward Card, just stop by
the Customer Service counter and ask that your
Reward card be linked to Rescue #8753.
*Contact Tom Thumb at 972-661-9700 if
your local store has problems linking.***

SAVE December FOR SANTA PHOTOS

Support rescue while getting a cute photo of your dog. DFWMGRRR will be at PetSmart in Plano (I-75 and Parker) in early December to take your dogs' photo with Santa. Rescue gets a percent from each photo taken. Watch the web site, www.rescuegoldens.org for the exact dates (still waiting on confirmation from the store manager). Cost is only \$8.95. Hours are 11 - 4



What Can We Learn from Barbaro?

By Bonnie Norris

Tears came to my eyes and I choked up as I watched the famous bay stallion Barbaro break out of the starting gate at the Preakness, the second leg in the famous Thoroughbred Triple Crown. Barbaro's power was evident from the start, a fire in his eye and a synchronicity of boiling blood, muscle, and sinew. Even for the horse-racing uninitiated, there was no doubt that this horse was very special. Then just seconds later, the unbelievable; after only a few hundred heaxtpounding yards Barbaro's right leg flared out grotesquely and he veered sharply to the side.

For those of us who know horses, we could see this was a horrendous injury, most likely a compound fracture. But unfathomably, Barbaro didn't drop in agony; instead, he continued to gallop forward in a dramatic effort to maintain his lead. Jockey Edgar Prado struggled to pull the horse back and later said that Barbaro practically jogged back to his stall on only three legs.

Along with most of America, I was broken up, and at first moved to sobs. But then, over the next few days, I began to reflect. Was the sadness I was feeling for Barbaro a result of his freak accident or was it because his accident might have been prevented? And was Barbaro just such a gutsy individual that he had continued to drive down the racetrack with 22 broken bones and a shattered fetlock joint? Or did his behavior exemplify something more unusual?

I looked into Barbaro's life to try to make sense of his terrifying misfortune. Before the Preakness, Barbaro was undefeated in six race starts. Winning the Kentucky Derby, he had the widest margin of victory, a whopping 6.5 lengths, since Triple Crown winner Assault in 1946. The day of his injury Barbaro came bucking to the start gate and was so eager to race that he broke the gate early only to be taken back to a second and successful start.

At first this seemed like the resume of a true champion, but I began to ask myself, was Barbaro bred with such a desire to run, that all other considerations, particularly his self-preservation instinct, took second place to his burning desire for speed?

My research led me to Barbaro's sire, Dynaformer. Kieran McLaughlin, Dynaformer's trainer, said that Dynaformer was the most difficult horse she ever trained. "You couldn't pull him up after a workout," she said and "You didn't turn your back on him." It was common knowledge in the stable that Dynaformer had once bitten off a groom's finger. McLaughlin finished her assessment of the stallion's temperament by saying, "He was mean, he would bite, he was a monster."

Barbaro's half-brother, Holy Ground, had a stakes-winning career but retired as a four year old because he injured his suspensory ligament during his last race. Breeding plans for Holy Ground are, as I write, undecided. But my guess is that if Barbaro can mount a mare, breeders will be standing in line with their mares for both Barbaro and his half-brother, Holy Ground, even though both retired before four years of age due to injuries sustained on normal track conditions.

With my interest piqued, I looked into the breeding practices of the horse racing industry. Over the last 40 years, three times as many race horses have been produced as before but a decreasing proportion are maintaining their soundness through their shortened careers. Huge multinational breeding operations have dominated the Thoroughbred scene, encouraging heavy inbreeding on a single Canadian stallion named Native Dancer, producing Thoroughbreds that are swift, but physically weak.

Recent veterinarian research into the failing health of race horses has uncovered widespread gastric ulcers and bleeding lungs. Shocking rates of injury and death have been blamed on breeding trends that select for speed at the expense of skeletal strength and general heartiness. It seems the pursuit of glory and profit are the forces that have led the racing industry to draw on increasingly narrow gene pools that produce "high status" foals.

So how does this all relate to dog agility? Since I began agility 15 years ago, agility dogs have gone from your basic backyard, family pet, burning-off-a-few-extra-calories-type dogs, to highly sought-after and marketed performance dogs with a hefty price tag.

I've heard more and more stories of top agility sires and dams with antisocial, inflammatory temperaments chronic unsoundness, epilepsy, deafness, gastrointestinal disorders, and whelping problems. But eager competitors are willing to overlook or are in denial about these problems in hopes that they can get the next World Team contender, and many breeders, as always, are willing to accommodate them.

The research I uncovered suggests that there could be a connection between dogs and horses bred (knowingly or otherwise) for very high metabolism and abnormal adrenal regulation that puts them at risk for these conditions.

I hope that as agility becomes more popular and increasingly competitive, buyers of future performance dogs will drive the market toward the overall sound and durable dog. We should encourage breeders to keep their gene pool large, to breed sturdy-boned, mentally stable, and balanced dogs, and to screen dogs for inheritable defects common to their specific breed. We need to place the importance of this over and above the need for extreme speed. That way, the dogs we love will be able to participate in agility well into their maturity.

Yes, speed is important, and on the surface, very alluring. And bless Barbaro's heart, he did exactly what he was bred to do, with grace, style, and bravado. But that's my point; maybe he was bred to do more than his body could withstand. We should learn from Barbaro's sad misfortune. Like race horses, agility dogs bred for good, common sense and physical stamina will continue to blaze in the agility ring for many years to come, long after the "firecracker fast" but inherently weak have fizzled out.

Reprinted with the permission of Bonnie Norris. This article was first published in the March 2007 issue of Clean Run.. To learn more about Bonnie, see her WEB site: www.PawsforapplauseAgility.com

What: All Breed Echocardiogram Clinic in the DFW Metroplex

Where: Sound Technologies Academy of Veterinary Imaging, 2409 Avenue J, Suite C, Arlington, TX 76006

When: Saturday, December 1, 2007 (if enough interest, we will continue on Sunday, December 2, 2007)
[NOTE: This is the same weekend as the Conroe shows, but it was the only weekend available for the cardiologist]

Who (if enough interest, a second cardiologist may be added): Sonya G. Gordon BSc, DVM, DVSc, Diplomate ACVIM (Cardiology) Clinical Assistant Professor, Department of Small Animal Medicine and Surgery College of Veterinary Medicine Texas A&M University College Station TX

How much? \$165 per dog, not including OFA fees. ALL PAPERWORK WILL BE COMPLETED FOR YOU prior to the clinic, so please register online at <http://www.LegaSeaLabs.com/HeartClinic2007.htm>
www.LegaSeaLabs.com/HeartClinic2007.htm

In order to register for the Echocardiogram Clinic on December 1, 2007, please register no later than November 15, 2007. Register as early as possible so you can get your preferred time and so that we can plan for extra help/days if needed!! You will receive an email reminder with your appointment time approximately 2 weeks prior to the clinic. Please show up on time with cash, check or money order for \$165 per dog. No walk-in appointments will be accommodated. Questions? Email <mailto:carrie@legasealabs.com>? subject=Heart%20Clinic%20Question Carrie Eberhardt or call 214-543-4638

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**Sorry, Ads for the Sale of dogs or Stud services,
Litter listings or sales of litters
Can not be accepted**

**DFWMGRC HAS THE RIGHT TO REFUSE ANY AD-
VERTISING**

**Chinese Shar-pei Club of Greater Houston
Robert Van Hutchison, D.V.M.,
Canine Fertility & Reproduction**

When: Saturday, February 2, 2008

**Where: Holiday Inn SW, 11160 SW Freeway,
Houston, TX 77031; 281-530-1400**

Please notify them you are coming for the seminar,
for special room rate. Registration Fee: \$80 if paid
BEFORE Nov 30th, 2007, \$100 After Nov 30th
2007

Fee includes: Continental Breakfast & Lunch
Seminar seating will fill quickly. Registration is lim-
ited to 100 people, based on receipt of registration
fees, no refunds. If you cannot attend, you may sell
your seat. Please complete the entire form and send
with check payable to Chinese Shar-pei Club of
Greater Houston, do Patricia Holmes, 12222

Aquadect Rd., Houston, TX 77041 or you may regis-
ter online at [http://www.qeocities.com/
texpeiclubtHutchison2](http://www.qeocities.com/texpeiclubtHutchison2) and pay by Paypal. Questions,
please call Holly Fuller, 281-468-2899.

SANCTIONED AGILITY MATCH

Friday, November 23, 2007

Dallas Dog Sports, 2760 Pecan Drive
Wylie, Texas 75098
(Outdoor Arena on Grass Surface)

ENTRY LIMIT:

150 Runs Total in All Classes

ENTRY METHOD:

First Received

MATCH SECRETARY:

Sherri Farmer, 3616 Parker Road, Wylie, TX 75098

OPENING DATE:

Wednesday, October 3, 2007 9:00 AM. Entries re-
ceived before this date will be returned. No hand-
delivered entries allowed!

CLOSING DATE:

Wednesday, November 7, 2007 6:00 PM after which
time entries cannot be accepted, cancelled, altered or
substituted except as provided for in Chapter 11,
Section 6 of the Dog Show Rules.

MATCH HOURS:

7:00 AM to 5:00 PM

MOVE-UPS:

You may not submit move-ups for this match AF-
TER 6:00 PM on Monday, November 19, 2007

CLASSES:

All Standard & JWW Classes Offered

Sanctioned by the American Kennel Club Scores
Awarded at Sanctioned Matches Do Not Count To-
ward AKC Agility Titles

The premium will be on the DFWMGRC web site.

Pictures in this newsletter are from the National and were
submitted by JJ Allen.

SLEEPLESS IN SEATTLE (So much to do.....so little time) Patti Caldwell

I was pleased to be asked to write a column about this year's National in Seattle. I hope this will bring back memories to those of you who attended and give a little insight of what took place if you had to stay home this year. I won't list any people, dogs or placements. I hope everyone sent in their brags and they are listed elsewhere in the newsletter.

Dick and I did not watch any of the TD/TDX, WC/WCX, Rally, Obedience, or Field Trials, so I can only comment on primarily conformation activities. Hopefully another club member can give us some highlights from those events.

The logo "Goldens Make the World Go 'Round" was perfect for the show site in Snohomish, WA at Harvey Airfield . The theme was carried out throughout the entire week in so many fun ways - The Evergreen GRC did an incredible job with every detail.

Having come from the flatlands of mid-Michigan and now living in Lavon, TX, I found the mountains, ocean, and landscape to be breathtaking! After we arrived Monday, we spent some time in the afternoon watching agility. In the evening, there was an enclosed tent on the show grounds for the Welcome Wine & Cheese Party and Parade of Titleholders.

No sleeping in on Tuesday morning because there was an 8:00 breakfast and Breeders Education Seminar by Melissa Goodman, DVM. This four-hour program alone was worth the trip --- such a comprehensive and informative program! If you were not able to attend, I would be happy to share my packet of information with you. In the evening there was a Northwest Salmon BBQ, entertainment, Annual Meeting with 2006 GRCA Year-End Awards, and GRF Silent Auction.

Wednesday was Sweepstakes. It is always so much fun to watch these youngsters and the veterans strut their stuff. Wednesday night we enjoyed the Dungeness crab bake - what a yummy local treat!

Thursday we watched conformation all day. The Golden Retriever Foundation Gala was held in the evening. What a wonderful experience it was -- seeing everyone all dressed up, delicious food and watching the Top Twenty. This year there was a new twist -- not only did the judges pick their winner, but everyone attending voted and there was a "People's Choice" winner as well. An exciting part of the evening, as always, was the Art Auction. I know I said I wasn't going to mention names, but I definitely want to give well-deserved thanks and kudos to Judy Word and her committee for all their efforts to make it such a successful event every year. This year, the Art Auction raised \$50,000 for breed rescue and for underwriting research and educational projects.

Friday and Saturday we continued to watch conformation and cheer on our favorites, renew friendships from around the country, and make new ones. After Best of Breed on Saturday, there was a ringside celebration with Awards and refreshments.

While many people packed up to drive or fly home Sunday, we stayed (one of the many benefits of being retired :-) for the Whale Watching Tour. What a great day -- spending six hours on a chartered boat with all Golden Retriever people. The conversations, gorgeous scenery, and sightings of porpoises, harbor seals, sea lions, and especially the whales made it a perfect ending to our week at the National.

We can't wait to go to next year's National in Rhode Island. Whether or not you were lucky enough to go to the last time it was held in Warwick, you are not going to want to miss this one!

Getting Started in Agility

By Debbie Spence

Have you thought about trying agility with your Golden Retriever? Words of warning: Golden Retrievers can be good at it, and it's addictive!

Agility is a team sport consisting of the human handler and her canine partner. The objective is to have the dog complete all the obstacles in a specified order and within an established course time. The handler's job is to direct the dog around the course, and the dog's job is to follow the handler's direction and complete the obstacles as quickly as possible.

Those of us who have been involved in agility for many years have come to appreciate the benefits of pre-agility or foundation training before jumping in to actual obstacle training. Part of that training includes building an obedience foundation using positive training techniques. Future agility dogs should have five essential skills: recall, sit, down, stay, and a release word (usually "okay").

9 The recall.

The recall is probably the most important obedience command necessary because, in agility, your dog will ultimately run loose.

A typical agility course takes about 60 seconds to run. That doesn't sound like much time, but if the dog isn't focused on the handler and the task at hand, that 60 seconds can seem like an eternity. Find out what motivates and excites your dog, and use it to help keep his focus during training. This can include a game of tug or asking your dog to perform tricks for treats.

A game we play in our obedience and foundation agility classes at PAWS is the 20-second recall game. The dog is restrained while the handler moves away. When the handler calls the dog, he's released to run to the handler. The handler then has to keep the dog's attention for at least 20 seconds. It sounds easy, but you may be surprised at how difficult it can be for some dogs to stay focused on the handler for even a short period of time. A high rate of reinforcement for responding to a name call will keep the dog's interest in the game.

9 A fast sit and down.

In most agility venues, your dog will be required to get on a table and assume either a sit or down position for 5 seconds. The judge counts out loud, and the dog must stay in position until the judge says "Go!" Because agility is timed, it's easy to understand why the faster your dog can get into the correct position, the faster the judge can get through the count, and the faster you'll be on your way to the next obstacle.

Teach your dog a fast sit and down on the ground before asking him to do it on the table. If your dog knows the words "sit" and "down", give the command, but only give it once. If your dog doesn't respond promptly, it's likely he either doesn't truly understand the command or you've taught him to wait until you've given the command more than once before he's supposed to comply. You may need to go back to the basics to help your dog comprehend that you want an immediate response to the command. Drop the verbal command and teach the behavior first. Then add the command.

For the sit, use a food lure just above the dog's head. When the dog's rear end hits the ground, click (or say "Yes!") and give the treat. As the dog starts to anticipate the behavior, he'll sit faster and faster. When you're consistently getting a fast sit, add the verbal command "Sit!"

For the down, use a tidbit of food in a closed fist. Move your fist toward the ground in front of the dog (almost between his front legs) to encourage him to lie down. If the dog has difficulty understanding, you might have to click & treat just a slight drop of the head at first. From there you can raise your criteria and wait for the dog's shoulders to drop. Then you might wait for the elbows to touch the ground; then the entire body. For most dogs, the process doesn't take long, but it does take patience on the part of the handler and a high rate of reinforcement for the dog.

Once the dog is anticipating and offering the down quickly, add the verbal command “Down!”

Note: It’s amazing how many handlers feel a need to use a harsh voice when giving the “Down!” command. Try to be aware of your tone of voice when giving your verbal commands. A happy but firm voice will get a better, faster response.

9 A solid stay.

Handlers have two choices when running agility: they can run with their dog from the start, or they can leave him in a stay and move out ahead of the dog (called a lead-out). Most agility courses are designed so that a lead-out is almost a necessity, so having a solid stay at the start line is extremely beneficial.

Even obedience-trained dogs can struggle with stays at the start line in agility because those obstacles in front of the dog are calling them to come play. The stay must become more reinforcing for the dog than taking that obstacle in front of him. A high rate of reward for a stay can include a quick game of tug, tossing a toy or treat behind the dog (so that he doesn’t always think he’s going to go forward towards the obstacles in front of him), a release to go sniff a bush – anything your dog finds reinforcing. Start by moving just a step away from your dog and then immediately move back to him and reward. As the dog gains understanding, move further away but still return quickly. When you want to increase the amount of time your dog stays, help him by just taking a step away, wait a few seconds, and then return and reward. Working in small increments like this insures a better success rate.

9 Release word.

A word, such as “Okay!” is needed in agility to let the dog know he can move from his position. The command is used to release the dog from his stay at the start line, his sit or down position on the table, and his performance at the bottom of a contact obstacle (dogwalk, A-frame, and teeter). The easiest way to teach your release word is to say it and then move away from the dog to encourage him to get up. Click & treat his response.

So as not to confuse the dog, it’s best to teach him to release only on your verbal command and not on any physical cues you might give, knowingly or not. When watching agility, you often see dogs that don’t truly understand the release word and will arbitrarily cue and release off a drop of the handler’s shoulder, a flick of a hand, a head turn, or any number of other physical cues.

While these foundation skills may seem boring compared to teaching our dog the agility obstacles, they are an integral part of the game of agility. As trainers, it’s up to us to find ways to make even basic obedience seem like a game to our dogs.

Debbie has been involved in agility since 1989 and is the owner of PAWSitive Agility Working School (PAWS) located in Rhome, Texas. She offers all levels of agility training as well as obedience.

For additional information please go to the school website:

www.PAWSAgility.com

This is the first in a series of Articles to be contributed by area Trainers. Whether it is Agility, Obedience, Field, Conformation, etc. If you think your teacher would be interested, please forward their contact info to: Kathy Felix at k.felix@tx.rr.com