

"Don't accept your dog's admiration as conclusive evidence that you are wonderful"
Ann Landers

Hi Everybody!

The Spring Trials, NADAC March 21 & 22, and TDAA April 11 & 12 went really well. They were small trials (there were many other dog events those weekends and it was hot for TDAA), but everyone had a lot of fun. The food was great, really nice courses, and lots of nice runs and qualifying scores. We ran out of qualifying ribbons! The weather was really nice for NADAC and the rain held off both weekends (thank God). We had a great raffle and made good money for our DACOF team. I would like to thank all of you who have donated some awesome items for our raffles. All proceeds from the raffles go towards our Cool Critters teams.

No Classes

There will be no classes Wednesday April 22 to Friday April 24.

New Classes

Super Puppy class will start on Wednesday, May 6 at 6PM
Basic Obedience will start on Thursday, May 7 at 7PM

I will be starting a Basic Obedience class on Wednesday mornings at 9:30AM. I have a couple of people interested. I will need at least 3 people to start a class. Please let me know if you would like to join.

Goodbye to Jerry Manning

This week a good friend to many of us left this world, Jerry Manning. Jerry was an honored Navy Veteran, beloved husband and father and a larger than life figure in the dog world. Jerry's greatest impact was on the 4-H Program in Hillsborough County. He and his wife Sally spearheaded the youth dog program for many years and turned it into a wonderful organization. Jerry will be missed by many, but most of all by the many kids (including my own) whose life he touched.

Some Information for New Competitors

I have to apologize to new competitors for not explaining to them about entries, ribbons, scores, etc. It's been a long time since I was new to competition, and took it for granted I guess that it was all self explanatory...sorry!

You enter a trial by filling out the entry form in the premium list. Each trial will have a premium list with the classes, judge, times, where the trial takes place, etc. Before you enter a trial, you should read the rule book that tells exhibitors about the organization. The rule books are always available for downloading at the organization's website.

When you compete at a trial, you start at the Novice or Beginner's Level. You will need 3 qualifying scores to earn a "title" at that level and move on to the next level. We give Qualifying ribbons as well as placement ribbons (1 thru 3rd or 4th). When you earn a title, the show giving clubs usually give pretty title ribbons.

In order to earn a qualifying score, your dog must run "clean", that is, must get all the contacts, no wrong courses or dropped bars. Although in some divisions, they can drop one bar. Don't worry, the more you do it, the more familiar you will become with the process, and of course, you can ask questions!

The Dangers of Bloat

Gastric dilatation-volvulus (GDV) is also known as "bloat," "stomach torsion," or "twisted stomach." Bloat is an **extremely serious condition**, and should be considered a life-threatening emergency when it occurs. There are no home remedies for bloat, therefore dog owners must **contact their veterinarians immediately** if they suspect that their dog has bloat. Dogs can die of bloat within several hours. Even with treatment, as many as 25-33% of dogs with GDV die.

The gastric dilatation is one part of the condition and the torsion is the second part. In bloat, because of a number of different and sometimes unknown reasons, the stomach fills up with air and puts pressure on the other organs and diaphragm. The pressure on the diaphragm makes it difficult for the dog to breathe. The air-filled stomach also compresses large veins in the abdomen, thus preventing blood from returning to the heart. Filled with air, the stomach can easily rotate on itself, thus pinching off its blood supply. Once this rotation occurs and the blood supply is cut off, the stomach begins to die and the entire blood supply is disrupted and the animal's condition begins to deteriorate very rapidly.

Not all dogs that have a gas buildup and resultant dilatation develop the more serious and life threatening bloat. However, almost all dogs that have a condition, develop it as a result of a dilatation.

Bloat is a very serious and life threatening condition. Understanding the signs, prevention, and need for prompt treatment will help reduce the risk of mortality if your dog develops this problem.

The large, deep chested breeds, Great Danes, Dobermans, Boxers, etc. are more prone to bloat. With all breeds, avoid heavy exercise right before or after meals. It's safe to wait an hour. Dogs that gulp down the kibble will swallow air, so wet the kibble down so that it does not expand suddenly in the stomach. Monitor water intake after heavy exercise; do not allow your dog to tank up on massive quantities of water. Many people say that crunching on ice cubes can cause an overheated dog to bloat as well.

For a comprehensive description of bloat, do a search online. The awful danger of bloat is that once it happens, it can happen again. Those of you who are familiar with Marley, the book and the movie, bloat is what Marley died of.

Need Agility Equipment?

Penny Rowley has used agility equipment for sale. Penny's phone number is 407-619-0966 and her email is pennyhrowley@gmail.com. I believe she has a dog walk, tire, triple jump and weaves

Congratulations to Our Latest Graduates!

Morning Basic Obedience:

Delia Vona & Bella (Cavalier King Charles)
Karen Lentz & Tucker (Samoyed)
Jordan Costello & Bo (American Staffordshire Terrier)
Julia Griffin & Lucy (Hound Mix)

Basic Agility:

Crystal Hernandez & Titan (Doberman)
Deb Holland & Abby (Sheltie)
Judy Smith & Nick (Sheltie)
Jessica Benson & Clutch (Boxer)
Tiffanie Ivins & Torque (Boxer)
Debbie Woodworth & Jive (Boxer)
Ron Hosea & Barney (Whippet)
Jackie Bowman & Samwise (Collie)
Marilyn Salazar & Resi (Lab)
Kelly Haywood & Scout (Aussie)
Chuck Dowling & Maggie (Cavalier)
Dawn Blankenship & Katie (Goldendoodle)

Super Puppy:

Tyler McGarrity & Bella (All American)
Betty Liss & Rocco (Labradoodle)
Susan Fogarty & Tesla (All American)
Gray Sample & Ripa (German Shepherd)
Mary Meeks & Toby (Maltese)
Lindsey Wiles & Reese (Min. Aussie)

Class Schedule

Monday:

6:00 to 7:00 PM - Super Puppy (Next class starting June 8)
7:00 to 8:00 PM - Basic Agility (Next class starting in June 15)
8:00 to 9:00 PM - Intermediate Agility

Tuesday:

9:00 to 10:00 AM - Advanced Agility
10:00 to 11:00 AM - Intermediate Agility
6:00 to 7:00 PM - Weaving Proficiency Class (Beginning April 7)
7:00 PM - Distance Control Class

Wednesday:

6:00 to 7:00 PM - Super Puppy class (New class starting in May 6)
7:00 to 8:00 PM - Intermediate Agility
8:00 to 9:00 PM - Advanced Agility

Thursday:

7:00 to 8:00 PM - Basic Obedience (Next class starting in March 7)
8:00 to 9:00 PM - Rally Obedience

Friday:

9:00 to 10:00 AM - Advanced Agility
10:00 to 11:00 AM - Intermediate Agility

...and now, time for a paws...

Ileana