

Hi Everybody!

The premium for the April NADAC trial is up on the website. We have Sarah Fix, one of our favorite judges, coming back, and Carol Bevan from Canada.

This has been a month of goodbyes. Kathy Thomas lost her husband Larry. It was hard to get used to the Wednesday Intermediate class without Larry wearing his captain's hat and cheering Kathy and Bailey.

Gloria Krueger (Harry, Annabelle & Paris) welcomed her husband back from Afghanistan, but they will be moving in a couple of weeks to Alabama. The good news is that she has family here and will be coming down to some of the shows. Now that she has her husband to help her with her little son, she can enter more shows! You will be missed Gloria!

### **DACOF**

Our School Roster for DACOF (Dog Agility Competition of Florida) is due March 1<sup>st</sup>. The roster is now posted in the Bulletin Board page of my website (at the bottom), Please check and make sure that your name is on that list (students in the Intermediate to Masters Agility classes). If not, let me know right away.

### **AKC S.T.A.R. Puppy Program**

AKC has an exciting new program to get responsible owners and their puppies off to a new start. It is a puppy level of the Canine Good Citizen program. S.T.A.R. is an acronym for Socialization, Training, Activity and a Responsible Owner. This program became popular as soon as it was introduced to Canine Good Citizen Evaluators, and I am happy to say that I have all the STAR Puppy materials, and all our Cool Critters Super Puppy classes will be a part of this program from now on.

This program is open to purebreds and Mix Breed puppies, and available to dogs up to 1 year old. The program rewards owners who have taken their puppies to a class at least 6 weeks long. The evaluation is done by a CGC Instructor (like me) who has been observing the puppies for at least 6 weeks. The course is designed by the individual evaluators based on the guidelines for a good doggy citizen. These guidelines include talking portions as well as active training sessions with the owners and their puppies. After working with the owners and their puppies, the evaluator administers the 20 item test. The Cool Critters Super Puppy classes have always been based on these guidelines.

Puppies enrolled in the program are listed in the AKC S.T.A.R. Puppy records, and the owner receives a Gold Olympic style medal, and AKC S.T.A.R. Puppy certificate, and AKC New Puppy Handbook, discount enrollment in the AKC Companion Animal Recovery, and a subscription to a monthly e-mail newsletter.

### **No Classes**

There will be no classes on the following days: Thursday & Friday Feb. 19 & 20. Friday February 27, & Friday March 6.

### **Be Very Careful with Tennis Balls**

I received this message from Janice Thomas about Cowboy, a German Shepherd owned by Pat Moreno: Here's the story on Cowboy. I am still not good at talking about it, but it shows how quickly accidents can happen with tennis balls. And believe me, there will be no more tennis balls in this house.

Cowboy loved to play ball and would play for hours. Gil had taken him outside to play and was throwing the ball for both him and Halley. Well, Cowboy had his ball in his mouth and then tried to grab Halley's. I guess it pushed the first one down into the throat and it cut off his air supply.

Gil rushed him to the nearest vet but it was too late. The vet's office had to call me at work as Gil couldn't talk. What a day! Anyway, I would be very careful with those tennis balls. It took just a very short time, and the suction from the first ball made it impossible to get the balls out. The vet said to have gotten it out, we would really have had to use forceps.

What a tragic end to a great dog!!! Cowboy was bred by Lisa Forstchneider and is the littermate to VooDoo, Sissi, and Sosa.

### **Getting Even with PETA!!!**

I received this from David and Janice Thomas, a way to finally fight back those obnoxious PETA terrorists. Take away their Tax Exempt Status!!! The following link: [http://www.consumerfreedom.com/article\\_detail.cfm/article/154](http://www.consumerfreedom.com/article_detail.cfm/article/154) takes you to a website called Center for Consumer Freedom. Here's is an excerpt from that website:

***“Like millions of other nonprofit groups in the United States (e.g., universities, houses of worship, social service organizations), PETA pays no federal taxes on its income. But few of these other tax-exempt groups share PETA's total disregard for the law. In 2003 PETA collected over \$24 million from Americans, avoiding over \$3.5 million in federal income taxes. Because this tax break amounts to a huge subsidy, every American taxpayer is footing the bill for PETA's behavior.***

**PETA's tax-exempt status was granted by the U.S. government on the basis of the group's willingness to conduct itself in a lawful fashion. We believe that PETA has failed to live up to its end of the bargain, and that the Internal Revenue Service should cancel PETA's tax-exempt status. “**

Check out the information provided in the website add your name to the petition, and please pass it on to all your friends!!!

### **From Mary Quinn**

Mary builds my Agility and Obedience equipment, and also builds backyard agility equipment that is very reasonable. She sends a message that the Christmas rush is over and if anyone is interested in buying equipment now is a good time because the turn around is quick.

Mary's email is [agilityperson@hotmail.com](mailto:agilityperson@hotmail.com) and her phone number is 352-518-9039.

### **From Kathy Thomas**

Thank you for the lovely card. As you know Larry's favorite day of the week, was bringing Bailey to class. He so enjoyed the NADAC trial, and the last thing we talked about was how many events Bailey should do in the April trial. He was looking forward to it! My neighbor was to bring me Wed. night but with the weather turning cool, I don't think I can expect her to sit in the cold. I've also talked to Kathy Scott, about riding together. We will be back, I just don't know when. I turned Larry's sweater in side out & folded it up, Bailey to sleep on, as he is having a hard time. He still sits in the middle of the floor & barks. Kathy & Bailey

### **From Barbie Frost and Mack**

Hi Ileana,

Hope you are doing well. Mack (Cool Critters 2007 graduate) and I have been volunteers at the South Florida Baptist Hospital with their Pet Therapy program since the summer of 2007. We love it! Being "Canine Good Citizen" certified is a prerequisite for Mack to serve at the hospital. Therefore, the Cool Critters training was perfect! Thank you!

I often meet people that want to participate in the Pet Therapy program. I tell them the first step is to get their dog certified and I refer them to your website for information on the obedience training. In fact, I believe "Tucker" (Boxer) plans to be in the March class (parents name is Higgins).

I just wanted to give you an update on one of your 2007 grads. Also, I wanted to put a plug in for more Pet Therapy volunteers needed. Do you send out a newsletter email? If so, would you mind adding a blurb regarding volunteer opportunity for the grads? (I noted info below.) If you would prefer not to, that's not a problem, I'm sure you get all kinds of requests.

Thanks Ileana.

Have a great day! Barbie

The South Florida Baptist Hospital in Plant City is looking for more volunteers to participate in their Pet Therapy program. Dogs must be Canine Good Citizen certified. For more information on how you can participate, contact Barbie Frost at

[BarbieFrost@Verizon.net](mailto:BarbieFrost@Verizon.net) or (813) 625-8366. Barbie and Mack (a Cool Critters graduate) are volunteers at the hospital.

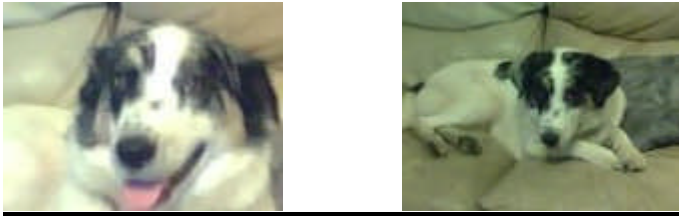
### **A Potential Agility Dog!**

Hi, I live in Lithia... we recently rescued a female aussie mix from certain death while we were in Kentucky 2 months ago. She lived on an Amish farm and they were going to take her to the woods and shoot her. We already had 2 male dogs, and rescued Molly in the hopes of finding her a new home.

I just had her spayed a few days ago, and she is healing up great. She would make a great agility dog, she is full of energy and just wants to be near your side. Her only quirk is that she doesn't warm up to people when she first meets them.

She gets along with my 2 male dogs well. Here is a picture of her, maybe you know of someone that is wanting a great dog to train ...I really think that with her energy and disposition to please she would be good at agility. She is about 2 years old, and has a current rabies.

thanks for your email,,,,julie holmes



Julie's email is: [dnjholmes@msn.com](mailto:dnjholmes@msn.com) her cell number is 813 493 0716

### **More Dogs Needing Homes**

Sally from Oaklane Kennels has a couple of dogs whose owners are not able to keep them due to health problems (the owners, not the dogs). A 2 year old Boxer, well behaved, his owner was involved in a really bad accident and cannot care for the dog. A very sweet mix breed, the owner is an elderly lady who cannot handle a big dog. If you want a nice pet, or know someone who needs a great dog call Sally at Oaklane Kennels 689-4043.

### **From Steve Quinn**

UKC (United Kennel Club) now has a Rally program. Steve says the rules and signs are posted in PDF form in the UKC website: [www.ukcdogs.com](http://www.ukcdogs.com) ...enter rally rules in the search box.

If you have a mix breed dog and wanted to do Rally, this is your opportunity. UKC allows mixed breed dogs to compete in performance events!

## **Class Schedule:**

Monday:

6:15 to 7:00 PM - Super Puppy (Next class starting April 20, 2009)

7:00 to 8:00 PM - Basic Agility (next class starting March 16, 2009)

7:00 to 8:00 PM - Conformation (This is an on-going class)

8:00 to 9:00 PM - Intermediate Agility

Tuesday:

9:00 AM to 10:00AM - Small Dog Agility

6 to 7PM - Distance work class

7:00 PM Masters Level Agility

Wednesday:

9:00 to 10:00 AM - Basic Agility

10:30 to 11:30 AM - Rally

6:15 to 7:00 PM - Super Puppy class (Next class starting March 11, 2009)

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 March 19, 2009)

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