

Hi Everybody,

Our Teacup Dogs Agility Association trial of February 13 & 14 was lots of fun, in spite of the unusually cold weather. We had a pretty good turnout for a first trial in that organization. It felt strange to have one of the larger dogs in the trial jumping 12". In this organization, the dogs that jump 4" & 8" rule!

Our next trial will be the April 24 & 25 NADAC trial in the Mosaic arena in Palmetto. The premium has been submitted to NADAC for approval, and as soon as it is approved, it will be up on the website.

### **No Classes**

There will be no classes on Thursday & Friday, February 26 & 27. I will be going to a trial in Vero Beach. Also, there will not be classes on Friday, March 5. That's the day of The IPOC Agility trial in Mulberry. Classes as usual this coming week on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, as well as Monday thru Thursday, March 1 thru 4<sup>th</sup>.

### **Morning Basic Agility**

The morning Basic Agility Classes will be graduating soon. This class is only offered when the weather is cool. Would any of you like another Basic Agility class after this one is finished? Please let me know.

### **School Roster**

The Agility school roster for 2010 is now in the Bulletin Board on the website. This roster has to be turned in to DACOF by March 1. Agility students please check the roster and make sure your name is on it if you have plans to be on the DACOF team. You have until Sunday, February 28 to let me know if I left anybody out.

### **About Dog Food**

What do you look for when you go shopping for dog food? First of all, animal protein must be at the top of the ingredient list. Ingredients are listed by weight, so the ideal food will have one or two animal proteins as the first few ingredients. The animal protein source MUST be named, for example chicken, beef, lamb, etc. Just plain "meat" in the label is an example of a low quality protein source of dubious origin. Animal protein "meals" should also be named, for example: "chicken meal".

When a fresh meat appears high on the ingredient list, an animal protein meal will be added to augment the total protein in the food. Fresh or frozen meats do not contain enough protein to be used as the sole protein source in a

kibble because they contain a lot of moisture. In contrast, animal protein meals: meat, bone, skin, and connective tissue that's been rendered and dried, contain much less moisture to protein ratio.

The food should also contain whole vegetables, fruits, and grains. These should be unprocessed and fresh with all their natural enzymes, vitamins, and antioxidants. They should however, be lower in the ingredient list. If there is a long list of these, or appear high on the on the list, then the food will be lower in quality.

Some signs that a company is cutting corners: Meat by products, or poultry by products because they are not processed and stored as carefully as higher value meats. This is a good reason to avoid foods that contain meat by products as their sole meat protein source. Avoid added sweeteners because they persuade many dogs to eat foods composed mainly of grains and containing little healthy animal protein.

Also avoid artificial preservatives, such as BHA, BHT, and enthoxyquin. Natural preservatives, such as tocopherols (forms of vitamin E), vitamin C, and rosemary extract, can be used instead. Be aware that natural preservatives do not preserve food as well as the artificial ones, so it's important that you check the date on the label and look for relatively fresh products. Buy medium sized bags every 2 weeks rather than a very large bag once a month.

Finally, avoid foods with artificial colors. The color of the food makes no difference to the dog. These are nutritionally useless to the dog, they are used to make the food visually appealing to you!

## **Grading Dog Food**

I received this from a previous student:

How to grade your dog's food: Start with a grade of 100:

- 1) For every listing of "by-product", subtract 10 points
- 2) For every non-specific animal source ("meat" or "poultry", meat, meal or fat) reference, subtract 10 points
- 3) If the food contains BHA, BHT, or ethoxyquin, subtract 10 points
- 4) For every grain "mill run" or non-specific grain source, subtract 5 points
- 5) If the same grain ingredient is used 2 or more times in the first five ingredients (I.e. "ground brown rice", "brewers rice", "rice flour" are all the same grain), subtract 5 points
- 6) If the protein sources are not meat meal and there are less than 2 meats in the top 3 ingredients, subtract 3 points
- 7) If it contains any artificial colorants, subtract 3 points
- 8 ) If it contains ground corn or whole grain corn, subtract 3points

- 9) If corn is listed in the top 5 ingredients, subtract 2 more points
- 10) If the food contains any animal fat other than fish oil, subtract 2 points
- 11) If lamb is the only animal protein source (unless your dog is allergic to other protein sources), subtract 2 points
- 12) If it contains soy or soybeans, subtract 2 points
- 13) If it contains wheat (unless you know that your dog is not allergic to wheat), subtract 2 points
- 14) If it contains beef (unless you know that your dog is not allergic to beef), subtract 1 point
- 15) If it contains salt, subtract 1 point

Extra Credit:

- 1) If any of the meat sources are organic, add 5 points
- 2) If the food is endorsed by any major breed group or nutritionist, add 5 points
- 3) If the food is baked not extruded, add 5 points
- 4) If the food contains probiotics, add 3 points
- 5) If the food contains fruit, add 3 points
- 6) If the food contains vegetables (NOT corn or other grains), add 3 points
- 7) If the animal sources are hormone-free and antibiotic-free, add 2 points
- 8) If the food contains barley, add 2 points
- 9) If the food contains flax seed oil (not just the seeds), add 2 points
- 10) If the food contains oats or oatmeal, add 1 point
- 11) If the food contains sunflower oil, add 1 point
- 12) For every different specific animal protein source (other than the first one; count "chicken" and "chicken meal" as only one protein source, but "chicken" and "" as 2 different sources), add 1 point
- 13) If it contains glucosamine and chondroitin, add 1 point
- 14) If the vegetables have been tested for pesticides and are pesticide-free, add 1 point

Score:

94-100+ = A 86-93 = B 78-85 = C 70-77 = D 69 and below = F

### **Agility Run Thrus**

IPOC is excited to offer Agility Run-Thrus starting March 8, 2010 from 6:00-6:50pm. A small course will be set up for people to run their dogs and an instructor will be available if you need some assistance. It's a great opportunity to prepare for DACOF and upcoming trials. The cost is \$30.00 and this will earn you 6 sessions. You can use these six sessions when ever you like. With payment you will receive an agility punch card and a session will be punched every Monday when you arrive for run-thrus. At the present time these run-thrus are

open to everyone. Please see an agility instructor for a punch card.

Please help the Agility Department by following these Run-Thru rules.

- You must purchase a punch card, single day run-thru's are not available.
- You must have your card punched by the instructor before you begin run-thrus
- Please work with your fellow running mates on jumping heights and moving the bars
- Please be respectful to your fellow running mates on how much time you spend on each run-thru
- 4-H is using part of the building during this time please respect their classes
- You must exit the run-thru course at 6:50pm so the instructor can prepare for the 7:00pm agility class.
- No IPOC points or free classes are to be used for run-thru payments, the cost is \$30.00.
- Unused sessions will not be refunded

## **Class Schedule**

Monday:

6:15 to 7:00 PM - Super Puppy (Next class starting April 5, 2010)

7:00 to 8:00 PM - Basic Agility (next class starting March 8, 2010)

7:00 to 8:00 PM - Conformation (New class forming, contact Jeanne: jsardo42@hotmail.com)

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

11:00 to 12:00 AM - Rally

6:15 to 7:00 PM - Super Puppy class (Next class starting March 10, 2010)

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 18, 2010)

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