

Hi Everybody!

The February Teacup Dogs Agility trial was a big success. The predicted rain was a small occasional drizzle so the dogs ran fast! The Friday seminar was very informative, so now, we are all ready to play Snooker, Fullhouse, Jackpot and any other strategy that the judge throws at us! Sunday started out a bit cold, but the sun came out and the rest of the day was perfect agility weather! A big thanks to everyone who helped make this trial a success!

Our next trial will be the NADAC trial on March 16 & 17. This will be for all sizes of dogs and will include all the regular classes as well as the games. The pre-entry closing date is March 7, so those of you planning to enter please get your entries in. We will be taking day of show entries as well.

On Friday, March 15 we will be setting up after the Intermediate Agility class and will need all the help we can get. Helpers get a 4 week class card. Those who stay and help take down will get a full 8 week class card.

We will have some nice vendors, so come and watch!

No Class Days

We will not have Agility classes on Friday, March 1, and Friday, March 8, as there will be local Agility shows.

There will be no classes on Monday, March 18. All the fields have to be returned to normal after the show.

Over The Rainbow Bridge

Yesterday, Flash, a Cavalier King Charles Spaniel, owned by my dear friend Jeanne Sardo, crossed over the Rainbow Bridge. Flash was a beautiful dog. He was a half brother to my Levi, and brought a lot of love and fun into Jeanne's life. He was exuberant, happy, always ready to play, and was Jeanne's comfort when her health was not too good. Jeanne did not have to make that sad last trip to the vet with him, he went on his own.

He was a very talented agility dog, and while he never became an agility champion, he was the champion of Jeanne's heart. That is what really counts, the love and teamwork that you develop with your dog, not the accomplishments. Flash and Tia were puppies together, and during classes, he loved to take breaks and chase Tia around the agility field, while Jeanne and I stood and laughed at their antics. We will miss you Flash. You leave a big hole in our hearts.

DACOF

This weekend, I will be sending our school roster to DACOF, so if you haven't yet, go to the bulletin board section of the website and make sure your name is on it! If you would like to be on the team, let me know. I already have several people who have contacted me. Please let me know in an email so that I can file it in my DACOF folder, otherwise I will probably forget.

I will assign the levels after the April 1 title cut off date, because we will then have a better idea of what level each dog is eligible for.

For the new students, DACOF stands for Dog Agility Competition of Florida, and it is tournament between the clubs and agility organizations of the state. It's all for fun. This year it will be June 29 & 30 in Kissimmee, FL at the Silver Spurs Arena. Everybody is invited to come and watch!

How Much Should we Feed Our Dogs?

A couple of weeks ago, I went in to Blue Pearl and as I sat waiting, I noticed that every dog walking in, was extremely overweight. I saw the fattest Vizsla I have ever seen, well over 100 lbs! Gwen Tomlinson (my Vizsla breeder friend) would have screamed. I have talked to several of the vets that come here for classes, and they all say that obesity is a very common problem in their practice. Dr. Christy Layton, asked me to make it very clear to all my puppy students that we NEVER feed our dogs the amounts on the bag of dog food. I would say, that in general, we feed half of the portions on the bag. Large breeds puppies, need food formulated for large breed puppies, as very rapid growth often results in hip dysphasia. The growth is too fast for those bones and joints. Many vets recommend phasing out puppy food starting as early as 7 months.

How can you tell a dog is too fat? If you can't feel the ribs when you run your hand over the side, and your dog has no waistline, then your dog is overweight.

From the USDA Newslet

Environmental Factors Can Affect the Incidence of Hip Dysplasia

By Claudia Bensimoun

Hip dysplasia is a hereditary developmental disease in which the hip joint fails to develop properly, potentially causing pain and reduced mobility. Determining both the genetic and environmental factors that influence the appearance and degree of the disease would help eliminate hip dysplasia through informed breeding and training practices.

Recent studies show that puppies walking on stairs from birth to three months of age had an increased risk of developing hip dysplasia. The factors associated with a decreased risk of developing HD included off-leash exercise from birth to three months of age, birth during the spring and summer, and birth on a

farm. The results indicated that significant clustering of dogs with HD was detected within litters. The housing and exercise risk related factors associated with the development of hip dysplasia were determined by radiographic evaluation of Newfoundlands, Labrador Retrievers, Leonbergers, and Irish Wolfhounds in Norway. The study concluded that puppies less than three months of age should not be allowed access to stairs, but should be allowed outdoor exercise on soft ground in moderately rough terrain to decrease the risk for developing radiographically detectable hip dysplasia.

For more information on this study, go to:

<http://www.usdaa.com/article.cfm?newsID=2288>

Class Schedule:

Monday:

1:00 to 2:30 PM - Advanced Obedience Skills

6:00 to 7:00 PM - Super Puppy (Next class starting April 22, 2013)

7:00 to 8:00 PM - Basic Agility (Next class starting March 11, 2013) **New Date!**

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

11:00 to 12:00 AM - Super Puppy (Next class starting March 12)

6:00 to 7:00 PM - Distance work class

7:00 PM Masters / Excellent Level Agility

Wednesday:

9:00 to 10:00AM - Basic Obedience

10:30 to 11:30AM - Distance work class

6:00 to 7:00 PM - Super Puppy class (Next class starting March 13, 2013)

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 April 18, 2013)

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

Congratulations to Our Latest Graduates!

Super Puppy:

Sonya Danile & Annie (Lab)

Brian & Julie Hasson with Winnie (All American)

Maureen Roberts & Judo (Malinois)

Basic Obedience:

Deidre Young & Dobby (Goldendoodle)

Trina Dooley & Remi (Border Terrier)

Rosalee Roberts & Grace (German Shepherd)

Sheri Tanne & Logan (Cavalier King Charles)

Kathy Williams & Rosie (Basenji Mix)

Bland & Erica Eng with Rusty (Beagle)

Cynthia Brown & Maddie (English Bulldog)

Scott Brown & Mojo (Yorkie)

Joy Rosen & Obi (Spaniel Mix)

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

Ileana