

Hi Everybody!

The weekend of July 4 and 5 is the annual DACOF (Dog Agility Competition of Florida). This year the competition will take place at the Silver Spurs Arena in Kissimmee, 1875 Silver Spur Lane, Kissimmee, 33815. It's a beautiful facility, air conditioned, and with plenty of room for spectators, so everyone is welcome to come and watch.

Cool Critters is taking two teams this year. The Cool Team, Excellent Level: Jeanne Sardo & Flash (Cavalier King Charles), Kathy Brown & Juliette (Toy Fox Terrier), Ileana Nadal & Tia (Boxer). Open Level: Susi Kirpatrick & Buffy (Doberman), Kathy Cargal & Tater (Cattle Dog), Lisa Fortschneider & Voo Doo (German Shepherd). Novice Level: Hiroko Williams & Ellie (Rat Terrier), Kathie Scott & Rudy (Poodle), Debbie Hartzell & Sasha (Pugle) The Critter Team, Excellent Level: Lisa Schmeling & Jedi (Yorkie), David Thomas & Kashmir (Sheltie), Lisa Glick & Scout (Swedish Valhund). Open Level: Susi Kirkpatrick & Birdie (Husky), Kim Thompson & Harry (Bouvier), Steve Quinn & Schoen (Boxer). Novice Level: Shela Ellis & Billy (Aussie), Margo barker & Gracie (Sheltie), Lisa Fortschneider & Sosa (German Shepherd)

No Class Days

There will be no classes Wed, July 8, Thursday, July 9, and Friday, July 10.

What's a Potcake?????

This is from Alison Barrick:

"I was very excited to attend my first AKC Star Puppy Class at Cool Critters. All the attendees stood around in a circle while Ileana asked them to name the breed of their dog. When it came to me, I said "I have a Potcake." "What's a Potcake?" asked Ileana, having never heard of such a breed. I told her that Potcake is the name given to the numerous stray dogs that roam the islands of the Bahamas and the Turks and Caicos. The name developed because locals give them the caked remains in the bottom of the pot to eat.

I never expected to adopt a puppy from a foreign country, but then again, I am Canadian, so perhaps it is appropriate. In early 2008, I read an article in the Tampa Tribune about the plight of Potcake dogs and something clicked. My husband Frank and I had been considering a dog for several years, but after much research into various breeds, we had still not reached a decision on the right dog for us. Once I visited the Potcake Place website and saw the adorable puppies, I

was hooked. Potcakes seemed to be the perfect type of dog for us - not too big, not too small, not purebred with inherent health issues, nor a stray where you know nothing about the parents. Although Potcakes are strays, they all seem to have the same body type and personality.

I began to eagerly scour the pages of the website, looking at all the photos of pups available for adoption. Testimonials sprinkle the site, exclaiming the wonders of these remarkable dogs. People from all over North America have adopted pups and proclaim them to be the smartest, most affectionate and happy dogs they have ever seen. The average size of a Potcake is between 40-55 lbs. They have an ordinary "dog" look about them with short ears that flop, short coats, sleek bodies, long legs and skinny tails that curl upwards. They also have what is called a "Potcake smile" that is indicative of their happy-go-lucky nature.

I nervously contacted Potcake Place to fill out an application. I spoke on the phone with the director Jane Parker-Rauw, a lovely woman who speaks enthusiastically about these wonderful dogs. She assured me that if I were not able to travel to her home base in Providenciales in the Turks and Caicos, they would find someone willing to bring a puppy with them on a flight into Tampa. Potcake Place relies on the kindness of travelers to airlift puppies back to the mainland in small carriers that fit under an airplane seat.

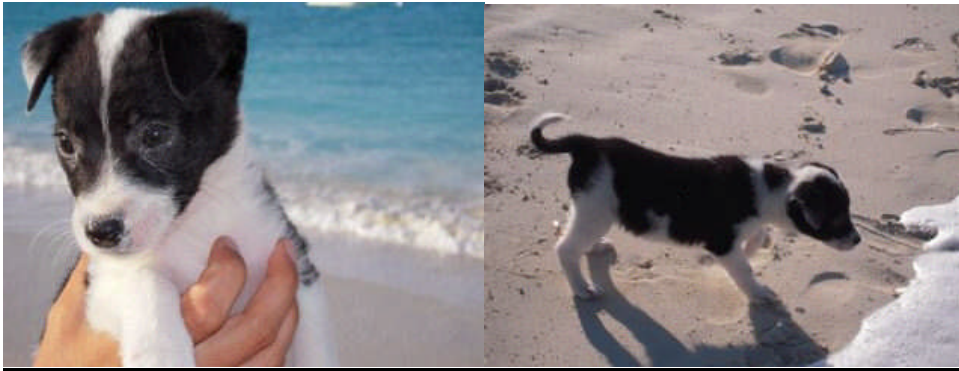
From the website, I selected a tiny black and white puppy named Princess from a new litter of 9 puppies that had just arrived from South Caicos. She was the cutest thing I had ever seen! Now I just had to be patient and wait until some kind soul brought her to Tampa. I waited and waited, and still no word on a courier. Finally, I arranged to pick up my new pup on Valentine's Day 2009 in Miami.

When I met the courier in the Miami airport and opened the travel carrier, I was surprised to pull out a puppy that was much bigger than I expected. Jane had told me that these pups have growth spurts and so it was important to get my puppy soon in order to meet airline regulations for onboard travel. By the time Katy reached me, she was close to 14 pounds, a far cry from the little five pound dog I saw on the website! However, Katy was a well-adjusted puppy and she immediately won us over with her sweet temperament.

Katy Kumquat (named after a character from the Kumquat Festival in Dade City) is now six months old, almost 30 pounds and the most enthusiastic dog I have ever met. She just finished the AKC Star Puppy Class and will now begin Basic Obedience training. I have high hopes for Katy. She is smart, fast, and loves to jump and run. I hope she will be a good agility dog. In the meantime, she is a normal puppy, constantly chewing, running, playing, chasing the cat, and doing all the other things that puppies do. She is a wonderful dog and we have never regretted our decision to adopt this new member of our family.

Whenever someone asks me about Katy, I am always pleased to say with a smile that she is a Potcake, the best dog I could have ever imagined! For more information on Potcakes, visit www.potcakeplace.com."

Alison Barrick, Brandon, FL



Agility Support Spouses:

This should be posted on all refrigerators in plain sight for all family members.

With show season getting into high gear, a friend came up with a list of things to help our [spouses](#) enjoy the show season (with agility in mind):

To My Husband / Wife

Please do not eat the hot dogs (for training) or roast beef (rewards) in the fridge the night before I leave for a trial/show.

Please do not move anything that I have set out on the table- it is all in a certain order to be packed.

Please don't talk to me as I pack the morning of the trial. I am stressed and excited and have many details on my mind.

I would LOVE to have you come watch us run, but please:

Don't talk to me 15 minutes prior to my run. Though I may look normal, I am in a zone.

Please don't try to be helpful and "X" the dogs. I have a system. I know who pooped and who didn't and who needs to pee before the next run, how soon it needs to do it, and how long it takes for it to get done.

If I throw a dog at you when running to another ring, just feed it and praise it.

I would also like food and praise after my run.

"What did it cost me" is not a good thing to say if I ask you if you like our new Ez-Up.

I have lots of good friends that I see every weekend at trials. When you meet them, just say "Hi... because I probably don't know their names.

If we have a lousy run, please don't tell me it's just a game. IT IS NOT- this is serious business. We're out to qualify AND place.

If I have a great run, hugs and kisses are in order for me and the dogs...for it is a wonderful game we play!!!

Please do not roll your eyes when my tent neighbors and I giggle and act silly- even when the tears are running down our faces and it's the umpteenth time you witnessed it. It's a stress-reliever that we learned at a seminar.

I will not be happy if you go to the [rest](#) room and missed my run. "There were five people in front of you" is not a good answer.

I will not be very happy if you tell me about the gorgeous run you saw in the next ring and I see a 25 year old walking out with spandex shorts and a BC.

Please do not expect me to make dinner [or pick up](#) when we get home. I would love to go out and have a [drink](#)- but I have to be in bed by seven.

One more thing- thanks for being there for me and always being supportive of our dogs and all of our activities. I love you.

Now, can you help me unload the car?

Belated Congratulations

To Jana Barnett and Chesapeake Bay Retriever Rudy. Their name was left out of the Super Puppy graduates last month.

Natural Bug Repellent

1. Two thinly sliced lemons

2. Sprig of rosemary
3. About 10 drops of Eucalyptus oil (you can get this at the health food stores)

Bring a quart pot of water to a boil. Add lemon and rosemary and turn off the heat. Let seep overnight. Strain out the lemon and rosemary, add eucalyptus and pour liquid into a spray bottle.

You can use it on yourself and your pets everyday if desired. Store it in the refrigerator

The Newsletters are Now Posted on the Website!!!

This was suggested by Alison Barrick

Class Schedule

Monday:

- 6:15 to 7:00 PM - Super Puppy (Next class starting July 6, 2009)
- 7:00 to 8:00 PM - Basic Agility (next class starting August 3, 2009)
- 7:00 to 8:00 PM - Conformation (This is an on-demand 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 9:45 AM - Super Puppy (Starting June 24, 2009)
- 10:30 to 11:30 AM - Rally
- 6:15 to 7:00 PM - Super Puppy class (Next class starting August 5, 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 August 6, 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