

Hi Everybody!

We are getting ready for our first trial of the season! It will be our November NADAC Trial on Saturday, November 30, and Sunday, December 1. It's always the weekend after Thanksgiving, and the holiday came late this year, so it will feel very strange!

We still don't have a food vendor for that trial, so if you know of a food truck or anybody that would like to do the concession for us, please tell them to contact me!

We also like to have other vendors since the Christmas Holidays will be around the corner.

New Classes Starting Soon

Super Puppy Class will be starting on Wednesday, September 25 at 6PM
Basic Agility will be starting on Monday, September 30 at 7PM

If you would like to join one of these classes and please let me know, if you have not done so already!

No Classes

There will be no Friday Morning Agility class on September 27. It will be the Dog Training Club of Tampa 3 day trial in Palmetto!

From Kelli at Pasco Paws

Pasco Paws will be hosting run thrus next weekend, Sept 28 and 29.
Saturday, Sept 28, 8-10 a.m.
Sunday, Sept 29, 5-7 pm
Come on out and get some practice in before the CPE trial!!
Cost is \$10 for unlimited runs per dog.

This is a great opportunity to practice your dogs in a different location! For those of you new to the sport, Pasco Paws in in Zephyrhills www.pascopaws.com

Calling Golden Retriever Owners

The Morris Animal Foundation is doing a study on cancer in Golden Retrievers and is looking for 3000 Goldens to enroll in the program. This study will also eventually benefit other breeds which are plagued by the disease. If you would like more information about enrolling your Golden, check out:

<http://mrr.is/14Ld7YR>

From Christy Layton, DVM

Christy posted this link on Facebook to an instructional video on administering CPR to our pets. It was produced by the AVMA and it's excellent!
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3JHdrojxzSw>

Old Dogs Rule and Old Dog Rules

This is a beautiful blog by Nancy Gyes of Power Paws Agility. Our old dogs represent a culmination of a life well lived, and leave a void in our heart when they leave us. For most of us who do agility, the decision of when to stop competing with our old partners is an extremely difficult one. Nancy has put all these emotions in her blog for us. What a beautiful read!

<http://powerpawsagility.com/2013/09/old-dogs-rule-and-old-dog-rules/>

Agility Judges

In the middle of the ring, is an individual who, by signaling to a person scribing, assesses the mistakes made by a dog, and consequently deciding whether a dog passes or fails. We often become aggravated, when we don't agree with the decision of a judge, or we feel the course set by that judge, which, by the way, is designed by the judge, is too difficult for our dogs. Have you thought about what it takes to become an agility judge?

The following was written by Ron Young, who will be judging our March 2014 NADAC trial:

What does it take to become a NADAC judge?

1) You have to be weatherproof – You will stand out in 150 degree heat, 0 degree cold, hurricanes, ice storms, tornadoes, and give each dog your undivided attention, even when ice cold water is running down your back from the rain. Sunburn, windburn, frost-bite and heat exhaustion are all possibilities if you aren't weatherproof.

2) You have to have a bladder the size of Texas – Inevitably you will need to take a bio-break as soon as the first dog in a 150 dog class starts their run.

3) You have to be independently wealthy – You will have to

attend judging seminars, clinics, and evaluation trials all at your own expense (and no matter where you live, they are always on the other side of the country).

4) You have to be a member of the jet-set – You have to know where all the good food spots are in every Podunk airport in the country. You will also have to know how to get from Terminal A to Terminal C in less than 2 minutes in order to make your connecting flight.

5) You will have to have Fashion Sense – Just because you can make it from Terminal A to Terminal C in less than 2 minutes doesn't mean your luggage will. You will have to wear the same clothes on 3 consecutive days and then be photogenic when people want their NATCH photos on Sunday afternoon (that will show up in CleanRun eventually).

6) You have to be an incredible dog trainer – You will spend so many weekends away from your dogs that they will receive very little training, yet people expect judges to have the best performing dogs because they clearly have an advantage.

7) You have to have Superman x-ray vision eyesight. You will need to be able to see everything that occurs in your ring, the adjacent ring, the warm up area, the entry and exit gates, and be able to see through the handler blocking the contact in order to make every call correctly.

8) You have to have a photographic memory with instant recall. After judging all day for over 350 dogs, someone will come up and ask..."Do you remember my black and white border collie that ran the regular course this morning?".

9) You have to be a camel...and store up all of the food and water needs you have for the day at one time. You will get one food break all day, and it will be at 6am.

10) You have to be perfect – Every obstacle must be set at exactly the right distance for both a Mexican Hairless and a Great Dane. Every obstacle entry must be perfect. Every call must be perfect.

11) You have to be a landscaper – In order for the course to be perfect, you will have to modify the landscape such that obstacles

will work in the exact location they need to go.

12) You have to be a sanitation engineer – When Fido inevitably has to go (on course), you will need to make sure that it is cleaned up such that no dog afterward will have any idea that the area was ever used as a bathroom

13) You have to be a mathematician – You will have to calculate course distance and Standard Course Times with precision accuracy while trying to eat, take a potty break, answer questions and measure dogs all at the same time.

14) You have to be Dr. Doolittle – You will have to "Talk to the Animals" to get Fido to relax enough to fit under the wickets that they are clearly 2 inches too tall for.

15) You have to be a veterinarian, trained in dog gaits of every breed and mix imaginable. You will be asked "Does it look like my dog moving okay to you?"

16) You have to be a psychologist – You will have to calm down the harried ring crew, the frantic trial secretary, the frustrated scoring table and the irate elite handler who just missed their NATCH run because they ran with a collar on

17) You have to be a comedian – Because you HAVE to keep your sense of humor...but remember you are laughing WITH the handler, not AT the handler.

18) You have to be a member of Toastmasters – You will have to excel at public speaking while giving briefings. (Hint – When someone says "A Big S Loop" with a southern drawl, it can be misinterpreted as "A Big <expletive-deleted> Loop")

19) You have to be single (or soon to be single) – because no spouse in their right mind would put up with you. Fortunately for us, many of us have spouses that aren't in their right mind.

20) You have to have TONS of vacation – You will spend a lot of Fridays and Mondays of your own time traveling to and from trials because there are no flights that can get you in or out early enough on Saturday or Sunday.

21) You have to have no other outside interests – Clearly you

won't have time to do anything else...

22) You have to have incredibly thick skin – Your calls will be analyzed by sideline judges. Your calls will be scrutinized on websites, by video-tape, by frame-capture and in slow-motion. See #10 – All calls also have to be perfect.

23) You have to be a born leader – You will get to a trial site and they may not know how to setup a ring in the shape of a square (see #13 about mathematician....that includes geometry you know), they may not know how to run a trial, they will look to you for guidance on everything.

24) You have to be a timer, scribe, judge, gate steward and ring crew all at the same time. Late Sunday afternoon, all of the help may leave; except for the last remaining competitors....you will need to do all of these jobs at the same time.

25) You have to be INSANE...because you love the job, and keep coming back for more even with all of the trials and tribulations because the sport of agility and the dogs and handlers in it are the best in the world!

Ron Y (tongue planted firmly in cheek)

Congratulations to Our Latest Graduates!

Super Puppy:

Zachary Puckett & Zoey (Aussie Mix)
Kristen Kelly & Maverick (Labrador)
Mary Anderson & Ronaldo (Aussie/Lab mix)
Cheryl Bucks & Archer (Boxer)
Will Anderson & Messy (Aussie/Lab mix)

Class Schedule:

Monday:

6:00 to 7:00 PM - Super Puppy (Next class starting October 21, 2013)
7:00 to 8:00 PM - Basic Agility (Next class starting September 30, 2013)
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 - Distance work class

7:00 PM Masters / Excellent Level Agility

Wednesday:

9:30 to 10:30AM - Advanced Obedience

6:00 to 7:00 PM - Super Puppy class (Next class starting September 25, 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 October 17, 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

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

Ileana