

Hi Everybody!

The Dog Agility Competition of Florida took place last weekend and I was extremely proud of the Cool Critters' performance. DACOF is always the last weekend of June but this year, because of the canine flu epidemic, it was moved to the third weekend in September. The Hurricane Irma came along, and it looked like the competition might happen at all!

Many of us were not able to attend because of the date change so we did not have complete teams but we had a good showing and above all, a lot of fun. DACOF is the essence of fun in dog agility. The purpose of the competition is for all of us to come together as a team, and enjoy each other's company while having fun with our dogs.

Cool Critters once again won the award for best crating area decorations! Our theme this year was the Cool Critters version of Ghost Busters...Course Busters! I will have pictures posted on the Bulletin Board section of my website as soon as I can get them up.

We had some great individual performances: Kelly Randall had a 1st place in jumpers with her sheltie Kaze and was 11th overall in 12" Novice dogs. Her Sheltie Ladybug had a 3rd in FAST and a 3rd in Jumpers and was 16th overall in 8" Excellent dogs. Carol Happel had a 1st place in Standard with her Cocker Lily and was 14th overall in 12" Open dogs. Kim Floyd's Australian Terrier Tivo was 7th overall in 8" Open dogs. Dr. Jackie Royce's Boston Terrier was 10th overall in 8" Open dogs. Donetta Myers' Papillon Dixie was 10th overall in 8' Novice dogs.

Congratulations to everyone! I really missed being there with all of you and I am really looking forward to the fun next year.

No Classes:

I will be going to NADAC Championships in Ohio next week (last time I went was 2008!) There will be no classes from Monday October 2 to Wednesday, October 11. Classes will resume on Thursday, October 11. I have already arranged for make up classes for Puppy, Beginning Agility, and Beginning Obedience.

All the agility equipment will be moved to the side so that the lawn maintenance guys can do their job.

CGCA Class

The CGCA (Community Canine) class was a LOT of fun! This class is one step up from the CGC test, the dogs are expected to walk on a lead, come when they are called, greet people politely, and generally do all the skills required for the Canine Good Citizen test in a public environment. Some of the classes were done here at the school, and some were done at shopping

centers. The CGCA test was done at Kim's Pet Supplies behind the school on Lithia Pinecrest.

In this class also, we worked on dog tricks. The American Kennel Club now also offers Trick Dog titles and since I am a CGC Evaluator, I can also do the Trick Dog Title test. Many of the tricks on the forms, are skills that the dogs learn in my classes, so we incorporated and built on those so that the students not only earned the CGCA titles, but Trick Dog titles as well! Videos are posted on the Cool Critters Facebook page.

Our first graduates were: Adrienne Swisher and Sheltie Brogan, CGCA, Novice Trick Dog; Penny Rowley and Belgian Tervuren Star, CGCA, Novice Trick Dog, Intermediate Trick Dog, Advanced Trick Dog; and Diana Miller and Cocker Chica, CGCA, Novice Trick Dog, Intermediate Trick Dog, Advanced Trick Dog. Chica is star Therapy Dog, performing quite a repertoire of tricks when she goes to the nursing homes, and she is now working on a video to submit to AKC for her Performer Dog title which is the highest level of Trick Dog.

I will be starting a new CGCA class in October. It will be on Fridays at 7PM. It will be limited to 4 people and the price will be \$95. Anyone interested, please send me an email. It's a lot of fun!

Do You Need Some Agility Equipment?

Mary Quinn builds reasonable priced agility equipment for you back yard. She also builds show equipment and does repairs. She maintains all my agility equipment.

I want to add that the weave poles MUST have 24" spacing between poles. Many times you will see bargains on Craig's list but make sure the weaves have the correct spacing before you buy them. Fast weaving requires correct footwork, rhythm, and muscle memory. If the dog is doing weaves with different spacings, they will be never establish that rhythm.

If you have old weaves that are not 24" apart, you need to replace them.

Health Comparison of Purebred dogs and Mixed Breeds

This is a great article showing the results of extensive research done on the health problems of both purebred dogs and mixed breeds. Is one group healthier than the other?

<http://www.instituteofcaninebiology.org/blog/health-of-purebred-vs-mixed-breed-dogs-the-data>

From Debbie Quiqly's Blog:

Attention! It is impossible for your dog to learn and perform a skill or exercise correctly if you do not have his complete attention. You should insist that your dog pay 100% attention to you. At the same time, you should give your dog 100% of your attention! The latter is very easy to forget...are we totally committed to our dogs when we are training?

When you begin a training session, be aware of any "down time" that may occur while you are working with your dog. Down time occurs when you are getting more treats, setting up jumps, looking at homework sheets, or going to the next exercise. If your dog has an opportunity for frequent sniff and gaze breaks, it is unlikely that his attention span will increase sufficiently enough that he can pay attention through an entire training session.

Rehearse good habits. First, make a training plan before you start training. With a plan in mind, you will be able to set out everything that you need for your training session, and then move quickly from one skill or exercise to the next. While you are working with your dog, persuade him to give you his undivided attention and keep him engaged with you. Randomly reward your dog's effort to pay attention to you by paying him with treats and toys.

Secondly, ***convince your dog it is in his best interest to watch you closely!*** While training, be unpredictable and spontaneous with your movements or give unexpected commands to discourage him to take even a single glance away from you! Your ability to praise and reward attention and to discourage inattentiveness will have a direct effect on your dog's performance during training and also in any sport you undertake.

Attention and focus will make or break a performance in any sport.

Dog Class Schedule

Monday:

6:00 to 7:00 PM - Super Puppy (**Next class starting Nov 20, 2017**)

7:00 to 8:00 PM - Basic Agility (**Next class starting Nov. 20, 2017**)

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 Weaving Proficiency (**Next class starting October 17, 2017**)

7:00 to 8:00 PM - Distance Class

Wednesday:

10:00 to 11:00AM - All levels Rally Obedience

6:00 to 7:00 PM - Super Puppy (**Next class starting October 18, 2017**)

7:00 to 8:00 PM - Intermediate / Advanced Agility

Thursday:

7:00 to 8:00 PM - Basic Obedience (**Next class starting Nov 16, 2017**)

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:

Beginning Agility:

Steve Quinn and Peanut (Boxer)

Robin Carey and Chula (Catahoula mix)

Suzi Metz and Trooper (German Shepherd)

Marty Carey and Tully (Catahoula mix)

Judy North and Layney (Border Collie)

Abby Wightman and Zoey (Whippet)

Obedience Foundation Class:

Barbie Frost and Zach (Boxer)

Steve Quinn and Peanut (Boxer)

Deborah Shannon and Bartley (Golden Mix)

Allen Rios and Sadie (Lab Mix)

Rick Zienteck and Jetty (Portuguese Water Dog)

Christi Ticer and Jax (Border Collie)

Allison Laiosa and Scrappy (Boerboel)

Deby Gregory and Kody (Kooiker)

Bruce Bradley and Katie (French Pointer)

STAR Puppy Classes:

Kim Floyd and Hillary (Australian Terrier)

Heidi and Matt Campbell with Penelope (Shichon)

Judy and Gordon Marks with Maggie Mae (Standard Poodle)

Lynette Anderson and Bear (Labradoodle)
Steve and Pat Germann with Riley (Labrador)
Lakshmi Pitla and Benji (Goldendoodle)
Barb and Ron Posey with Rosey (Rottidoodle)
Stacey Wamsley and Summer (Goldendoodle)
Ally Scott and Rhea (American Staffordshire Terrier)
Don Nelson and Bentley (Cavalier King Charles)
Connie Gray and Rob Corjay with Pepper (Labrador)
Paola Zerbini and Kave Tozzi with Leia (Malshi)

Cassie Kennedy and Murphy (German Shepherd)
Laura Burch and Max (Golden Doodle)
Dylan Higham and Patty (All American)
Emma Collard and Ollie (Mini Aussie)
Brooke Fritzler and Rory (Aussie)
Sarah Rhine and Callie (Bullmastiff)
Mikey Pate and Maggie (Mastiff)
Sandy and Joe Castelli with Misty (Cavachon)
George and Lauren Lantz with Scout (Aussie)
Jack and Julia Dempsey with Rex (American Staffordshire Terrier)
Kevin Egan and Mikko (Aussie)
Ragen Carpenter and Bristol (Labrador)

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

Ileana