

# Happy Tails News

March 2008

## Upper Snake River Valley Dog Training Club, Inc.

P.O. Box 1611

Idaho Falls ID 83403

[www.usrvdtc.org](http://www.usrvdtc.org)



### 2008 OFFICERS

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### 2007 BOARD

LaDawn Moad

1-Year Board Member

552-1174

[moadl@d93.k12.id.us](mailto:moadl@d93.k12.id.us)

Lori Keele

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Steven Olson

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Newsletter Editor

Cheryl Loomis

[setnsun@cablone.net](mailto:setnsun@cablone.net)

Deadline:

24<sup>th</sup> Of Each Month



### **We want to congratulate**

**Shelby Moad, who participated in the Invention Day through her GATE Class and her invention won 2nd place. Now she will go on to State in Boise on March 7-9.**

**GOOD LUCK!!!**



# WELCOME

To new members,

Cathy Hjelm, Kacey Parris & Sarah Kroupa ,  
Lisa Jensen-Smith & Rainy Smith

And our new juniors.

Cody Robinson and Alexis Coverstone

**The March agility trials are just around the corner. We need all members to come and help out at the trial. Please contact Theresa Mathis to volunteer. The dates are March 28, 29, and 30.**

Contact Theresa at 403-3855 or  
[biogirltjm@yahoo.com](mailto:biogirltjm@yahoo.com).  
**March President's Message**

As a club we would like to welcome all of our new members. We are especially, excited to see so many "juniors" show an interest in dog sports. We hope that they enjoy a lifetime of companionship with the most devoted friend they will ever make.

We all belong to Upper Snake River Valley Dog Training Club for different reasons. We hope all members will find that the friendships they make is the reason they stay. All of us have something to offer to the club and we encourage everyone to become an active member.

We have changed our Standing Rules to clarify what we expect from club members. Time is a precious commodity and no one has enough, but as the old saying goes "Many hands make light of the work". Active club members in good standing still have all the benefits that they have always had. Inactive club members in good standing are still an important part of our club and the only thing that changes for them is that they will pay one-half of the class fee for any class(es) they enroll in. Hopefully, we will not have any inactive members.

A member in good standing (active or inactive) is a member who:

- ◆ has no delinquent debt to the Club
- ◆ is current on dues
- ◆ is not under suspension by the Club under Article VII of the By-Laws
- ◆ is in good standing with AKC

To be considered an active member you are expected to meet two of the following requirements each year:

- ◆ Attend 4 club meetings (There are 10 meetings, one club picnic, and one Christmas Party each year. All are considered meetings).
- ◆ Instruct or assist 1 training class per year (There are 3 obedience training sessions and 2 agility training sessions per year).
- ◆ Serve as a Club Officer or Committee Chairperson.
- ◆ Steward at two trials per year (There are 6 agility trials and 3 obedience/rally trials per year).

Each individual member is responsible for deciding for themselves if they are an active member or not. We are honest, responsible individuals and do not need to police each other.

Volunteers need no previous experience, take a deep breath, grab the leash, and join the us!

Suzanne



USRVDTC REGULAR  
MEETING MINUTES  
February 21, 2008

The regular monthly meeting of the USRVDTC was called to order on Thursday, February 21, 2008, at 7:31 p.m., by President, Suzanne Belger, at the 5 & Diner, Idaho Falls, Idaho.

Members present were: LaDawn Moad, Shelby Moad, Stephanie Nielsen, Rosha Adams, Kent McCandless, Rosalyn McCandless, Judy Grof, Bill Grof, Suzanne Belger, Carl Friedrich, Barbara Friedrich, Shyne Brothers, Jane Guidinger, Maurice Guidinger, Steven Olson, Lois Olson, Vicki Robinson, Jay Robinson, George Haller, Glenda Haller, Lori Keele, MaryLee Moore, Diane Orr, Duane Loomis, Cheryl Loomis, Darcy Bartholomay, Kelly P'Pool, David P'Pool, Margi Vanover, Nancy Lasky, Fran Hassing, Kerwin Hassing, Cathy Hjelm and Abbie Zaladonis. Guests present were: Rick Belger, Fred Adams, Christine, Tyler and Laynie Donnelly.

Barbara Friedrich brought to the club's attention a need to correct some information in the January 2008 meeting minutes to reflect that Glenda Haller submitted the requested information on the DEO NSF check to the Weld County Sheriff's Office. The minutes incorrectly reported that Barbara had forwarded the information. Carl Friedrich also requested a clarification in the minutes regarding the discussion held as to the options for places to hold upcoming obedience classes and possibly advertising in the City's brochure. Carl requested that the sentence "The general feeling of the members present was that we no longer wish to contribute financially to the City of Idaho Falls." be deleted from the minutes, and the following sentence be inserted: "The \$300 expenditure for the ads in the brochures does not appear to be cost effective based on the facilities offered by the city." **Barbara Friedrich motioned to approve the minutes as corrected. Steven Olson seconded the motion. PASSED.**

Report of President: Suzanne Belger read the minutes of the Special Board Meeting held on January 24, 2008, in which the board discussed options to resolve what they considered to be items of concern to several members after the January 2008 regular meeting.

Report of Vice President: Judy Grof indicated that she is seeking guest speakers for upcoming club meetings. She has made arrangements for a representative from EIRMC to come and speak on the Pet Partners Program at the March meeting. Judy also stated that she would like to possibly have a presentation on the history of the club. Diane Orr also suggested having a presentation on canine CPR.

Report of the Secretary: None

Report of the Treasurer: Glenda Haller read the monthly financial report. She also indicated that a

certificate of deposit was renewed with Edward D. Jones.

#### **Report of Committees:**

Agility Secretary: Suzanne Belger reported that the club's March agility trial is open for entries. Suzanne also passed around various premiums for upcoming trials. She indicated that there will be an agility practice on Sunday, March 2<sup>nd</sup> from 5:00 to 7:30 p.m., at The Barn. She also indicated that sign-up for agility classes is now being accepted.

Obedience Chairman: Duane Loomis reported that the obedience/rally trial applications have been approved. He said he also believes that all of the judges panels for the trials have been approved.

Obedience Training Director: Kelly P'Pool reported that the current OB classes are going well. She passed around a sign-up sheet requesting trainers and assistants for the upcoming agility classes and the June and October OB classes.

Newsletter: Cheryl Loomis reported that she was circulating a sheet for member brags for the newsletter. She also asked if new members would please list their birthdays.

Delegate Liaison: Carl Friedrich reported that Alan King has agreed to act as the club's AKC Delegate if he is approved by the regular members. The Board has made a recommendation to the membership that Alan be approved as the Delegate.

Equipment Manager: Carl Friedrich reported that the printer unit for the electronic timer was ordered and has been received.

**Voting on New Membership Applications:** Membership applications for the following members were voted upon:

Lisa Jensen-Smith & Rainy Smith (family membership); Cody Robinson (Jr. membership); Cathy Hjelm (regular membership); Alexis Coverstone (Jr. membership); and Sarah Kroupa and Kacey Parris (family membership). All were welcomed as new members.

**Unfinished Business:** **Carl Friedrich motioned that Alan King be appointed as the Club's AKC Delegate. MaryLee Moore seconded the motion. PASSED.**

Suzanne Belger passed out copies of the Club's standing rules with changes proposed. Discussion was held regarding the reasons for the proposed changes. **Barbara Friedrich motioned to accept the proposed change in the Vice President and Treasurer responsibilities, as listed in the revised standing rules. Glenda Haller seconded the motion. PASSED.** The new section 1.2(e) shifts the responsibility from the Treasurer to the Vice President for sending cards to club members when appropriate. Flower arrangements will only be sent in the event of the death of a club member, or a member of their immediate family. The cost of the arrangement shall not exceed \$35 unless otherwise approved by the Board of Directors. The old section requiring to Treasurer to perform these duties was deleted with this new change.

Discussion was held regarding the proposed changes to the standing rules which would define an "active" member vs. an "inactive" member, and the new requirements for "active" membership. **Barbara Friedrich motioned to approve the proposed changes to section 3.2 of the standing rules and delete the portion listed in parentheses. Steven Olson seconded the motion. PASSED.** The change adds paragraph (e) to section 3.2 and reads as follows:

*"(e) Active club member in standing – no charge for dogs owned or co-owned by member. Inactive club member in good standing – half the class fee. To be considered active, a club member must meet two of the following requirements in the past twelve months.*

1. *Attend 4 club meetings per year*
2. *Instruct or assist one training class per year*
3. *Serve as a club officer or committee chair*
4. *Steward 2 trials per year*

*The board may waive above requirements in meritorious situations."*

**Suzanne Belger motioned to rescind the previous club decision to charge \$5.00 per dog for agility classes held at an indoor facility (passed at January 2008 meeting. Darcy Bartholomay seconded the motion. PASSED.**

**New Business:** Suzanne Belger reported that the Blackfoot shows/trials will be held on June 12-15, 2008. She also indicated that PKC is soliciting advertising for a publication to be made available to all exhibitors. Discussion was held. **Carl Friedrich motioned that the club purchase a ¼ page ad in the Blackfoot dog shows/trials publication for the price of \$50.00. Margi Vanover seconded the motion. PASSED.** Suzanne Belger asked for a volunteer to do an ad. The deadline for submitting the ad is April 1<sup>st</sup>.

Suzanne Belger read a letter she had received from the AKC in which they suggested that clubs place ads in their local newspapers warning potential dog/puppy buyers of other dog registries and suggesting that they only purchase AKC registered/registerable dogs. **Barbara Friedrich motioned that the club not place such an ad. Nancy Lasky seconded the motion. PASSED.**

Shelby Moad announced that she is selling Sonic discount cards in order to continue raising money for her school trip to Washington, D.C. The cost of the cards is \$8.00. Members can contact Shelby if they are interested in purchasing one of the cards.

Glenda Haller announced that the new club member directories are printed and available. Directories were provided to those members present at the meeting.

Cathy Hjelm announced that the ERKC will be holding a "Bark in the Park" activity on Saturday, September 6, 2008, at Tautphaus Park from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. There will be various clinics including vaccinations, micro-chipping, a dog chiropractor and acupuncturist. There will be no admission charge. Cathy wondered whether the club would be interested in having a CGC test, or doing a demonstration of some type. The matter will be discussed further at upcoming club meetings.

Carl Friedrich read a letter which our former Delegate, Joan McFadden forwarded to him from the AKC, along with a medallion for the AKC "Outstanding Member Award" program. The recipient of the award is to be chosen by the club and the person's name will be listed on AKC's website. **Barbara Friedrich motioned to replace the club's "Club Member of the Year" award with the AKC's "Outstanding Member Award." Glenda Haller seconded the motion. PASSED.** Discussion was held regarding what the criteria would be for selecting a recipient and it was decided the same criteria would be used as was previously used in choosing the Club Member of the Year recipient.

It was requested that club members send an e-mail to Theresa Mathis if you are able to steward at the upcoming agility trials.

**Glenda Haller motioned for adjournment. Nancy Lasky seconded the motion. PASSED.** Meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Submitted by Club Secretary,  
Rosha Adams

### "Bragg"

**REMEMBER** that brags and other newsletter information is due to the newsletter editor by the 24<sup>th</sup> of each month. We accept late brags! You can email your info [setsun@cablone.net](mailto:setsun@cablone.net). It is preferred that you email your brags to the editor.

**It's great to see such wonderful achievements from our club members.**

**From the Intermountain Kennel Club's Agility Trials in S. Jordan:**

"Celeste" and Suzanne Belger enjoyed a trip to South Jordan over President's Day weekend. They picked up their 4th MX leg and their 3rd MXJ leg and for a bonus 21 MACH points. It was a great weekend with friends.

"Melody" and Rosha Adams earned their Novice Fast Preferred title with two 1st places!

Maurice and Jane Guidinger reported that "Captain" Guidinger made his agility debut. He Q'd four out of four runs, all first place and 17 – 24 secs. under course times.

"Chance" Guidinger finished his OAP AND NFP and Q'd in Excellent Standard Preferred.

"Kilo" Guidinger earned an OA leg and nims a weave pole would have an OAJ leg in 28 zooming seconds.

### Up-Coming Events

For information on Trials check  
[www.akc.org/events/search/](http://www.akc.org/events/search/)

March 14, 15 & 16 – AGILITY

Idaho Capital City Kennel Club, Inc.

March 21, 22 & 23 - OBEDIENCE & RALLY

Golden Spike Dog Obedience Club

March 22 - OBEDIENCE & RALLY

Salt Lake Doberman Pinscher Club

March 28, 29, & 30 - AGILITY

USRVDTTC

April 02 – USRVDTTC Agility Classes

April 04 - OBEDIENCE & RALLY

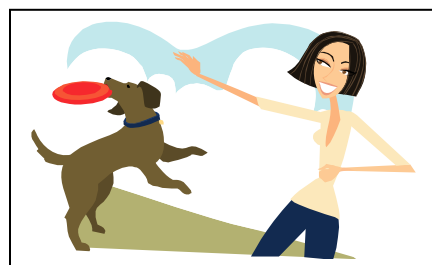
Utah Shetland Sheepdog Association

April 25, 26, & 27 - AGILITY

Helena Montana Kennel Club

May 11 -TRACKING

GSLDTTC



Eagle Rock Kennel Club has invited USRVDTTC to participate in "Bark in the Park". This event will be

held September 6, 2008 in Tautphaus Park. If you have any ideas or would like to volunteer to help, please contact Abbie Zaldonis at 524-1799. This would be a great opportunity to educate the general



public about responsible dog ownership!

**AGILITY CLASSES –** The next session will start on Wednesday, April 2, 2008:

Pre-registration required. Download forms from [www.usrvdtc.org](http://www.usrvdtc.org) and mail with registration fee to: USRVDTTC-Agility Classes PO Box 1611 Idaho Falls, ID 83403-1611

Due to the nature of the class dogs that are dog or people aggressive are not suitable for any of these classes. Pre-requisite for all classes is successful completion and mastery of previous class (i.e. Agility Foundations before Intermediate). In special circumstances previous class requirement may be waived if handler/dog demonstrate they have needed skills. Weather permitting classes will be held at Tautphaus Park.

For more information contact Suzanne Belger (542-6552) or Linda Reimann (529-3942)

COME AND JOIN THE FUN!!!! You will need a buckle collar, leash, tug-type toy, and small moist treats every class.

**DID YOU KNOW ? ? ?**

## American Kennel Club News Article

**Bulldog Muscles Its Way Into AKC's List Of Top 10 Most Popular Dogs In America**

**Date of Article: January 16, 2008**

- **Bulldog Makes the List for First Time in Nearly 75 Years; Labrador Retriever Continues to Fetch Top Spot –**



New York, NY – Today the American Kennel Club® announced that the Bulldog, a popular sports team mascot and one of the most recognizable and iconic purebred dogs, has muscled its way into the 10th spot on the organization's annual list of the most popular breeds in America according to 2007 AKC® registration figures. The Labrador Retriever retains the title of "Top Dog"— a position it has now held for 17 consecutive years.

"This is the first time the Bulldog has made it onto the top ten list since 1935," said AKC spokesperson Lisa Peterson. "This breed appeals to a very wide range of dog lovers so it's no surprise that it is a favorite amongst AKC's 157 breeds. The Bulldog is both docile and adaptive, and can thrive in small or large homes. It's an excellent all-around family pet."

The Bulldog was first recognized by the AKC in 1886 – just two years after the organization's founding – and was most popular in 1915\* when it peaked in 5th place. The breed's popularity ebbed and flowed throughout the mid-20th century, but since hitting a low of 41st place in 1973, its ranking has steadily increased.

## 2007 Most Popular Dogs in the U.S.

1. Labrador Retriever
2. Yorkshire Terrier
3. German Shepherd Dog
4. Golden Retriever
5. Beagle
6. Boxer
7. Dachshund
8. Poodle
9. Shih Tzu
10. Bulldog

### FRAUDULENT FIDOS

Unfortunately the Bulldog's popularity – and irresistible appearance as a puppy – is often taken advantage of. Earlier this year the AKC and the Better Business Bureau issued a warning about Internet scams that often used photos of Bulldog puppies to lure in victims. Commonly, the scammer —posing as a breeder— places an ad offering a free or inexpensive puppy and then requests via email that shipping fees be wired. After the money is sent, the dog never arrives and the scammer is never heard from again.

"This is certainly not the only scam to be aware of, but it is a common one," says Peterson. "Because of the emotional investment, consumers are more vulnerable to being taken advantage of when it comes to a cute, cuddly puppy than with any other purchase. Not only is it important to find the breed that's right for your lifestyle, it's just as important to take those extra steps and find a responsible breeder. A great resource is [www.puppybuyerinfo.com](http://www.puppybuyerinfo.com)."



## PET PREFERENCES: TOP 50 CITIES

The AKC looked at the Top 10 breeds in the nation's 50 largest cities. Some highlights:

- \* The Bulldog is most popular in Los Angeles where it is currently ranked 2nd right after the Lab.
- \* Despite having one of the world's most beloved and renowned Bulldogs as the mascot for its state college sports team – University of Georgia's "Uga," – Atlanta is one of the few cities in the nation that did not include the Bulldog in its Top 10.
- \* The Poodle and Dachshund, who each once enjoyed the top spot in Manhattan (2006, 2005 for the Poodle and 2004 for the Dachshund) now share a tie for 3rd place, ousted by America's top choice, the Labrador Retriever.
- \* Detroit, Knoxville, Miami, Honolulu and Orlando are the only cities that do not have the Labrador Retriever in the top spot. Detroit and Miami favor the German Shepherd, Orlando puts the Yorkie in 1st place, Honolulu the Golden Retriever and Knoxville the Boxer.
- \* Salt Lake City is the only city to place the Shih Tzu in one of its top two spots. It moved from 3rd in 2006 to 2nd in 2007.
- \* The only cities to not have the Yorkie on their lists are Buffalo, Milwaukee and Des Moines. And, Des Moines had the most unique list of all 50 cities, considering that it shared only four dogs with the national Top 10.
- \* The Miniature Schnauzer, which was displaced on the national list this year by the Bulldog, still claims top dog status in Oklahoma City where it ranks 3rd, higher than in any other U.S. city.
- \* San Francisco and Los Angeles were the only cities in the nation to include the French Bulldog in their Top 10 lists.

## PET PREFERENCES: 1997– 2007

Some of the most notable recent trends include:

- \* The Miniature Schnauzer was bumped off the Top 10 list in 2007 to make room for the Bulldog.
- \* The Yorkshire Terrier held steady in 2nd place, after making news last year by

displacing the Golden Retriever and German Shepherd.

- \* The Havanese, a small dog with a coat type that is a good choice for people with allergies, has enjoyed the greatest surge in popularity since 1997, increasing 994%. It now ranks as the 37th most popular breed.
- \* Other small dogs (under 20 lbs.) that have gained popularity in the past decade include the Cavalier King Charles Spaniel (+406%), the French Bulldog (+404%) and the Brussels Griffon (+157%).
- \* Large dogs with notable increases are two Swiss breeds -- the Bernese Mountain Dog (+74%) and the Greater Swiss Mountain Dog (+127%) -- as well as the Wirehaired Pointing Griffon (+130%).
- \* Breeds on the decline include the Rottweiler (-81%) and the Dalmatian (-96%). Many breeds of Asian origins are also waning in popularity: Chow Chows (-84%), Pekingese (-79%), Akitas (-76%), Lhasa Apso (-75%), Chinese Shar-Pei (-73%) and Shiba Inu (-38%).

## PET PREFERENCES: 1915 – TODAY

The AKC has maintained registration statistics of AKC recognized breeds for nearly a century. Some highlights:

- \* The Beagle is the only breed that has consistently been included in the Top 10 list since 1915. It reigned as the most popular breed from 1954 to 1959.
- \* Poodles enjoyed a long reign as the most popular dog for 23 years (1960–1982), the longest any breed has held that position consecutively.
- \* Cocker Spaniels ranked number one from 1936-1953 (replaced by the Beagle in 1954). Cocker Spaniels made a comeback and were number one again from 1983-1990, making them the dog with the longest total reign in the top spot at 25 years.
- \* The Toy group has been steadily on the rise since the 1970's, when it made up only 12% of the registry versus 23% today.
- \* The Working group peaked in the 1990's at 17%, most notably due to the Rottweiler being in the Top 10 at that time, including several years in 2nd place.

## The Old Man and the Dog

by Catherine Moore

"Watch out! You nearly broad sided that car!"  
My father yelled at me.

"Can't you do anything right?"  
Those words hurt worse than blows. I turned my head toward the elderly man in the seat beside me, daring me to challenge him. A lump rose in my throat as I averted my eyes. I wasn't prepared for another battle.

"I saw the car, Dad. Please don't yell at me when I'm driving." My voice was measured and steady, sounding far calmer than I really felt.

Dad glared at me, then turned away and settled back. At home I left Dad in front of the television and went outside to collect my thoughts. Dark, heavy clouds hung in the air with a promise of rain. The rumble of distant thunder seemed to echo my inner turmoil.

What could I do about him?

Dad had been a lumberjack in Washington and Oregon. He had enjoyed being outdoors and had reveled in pitting his strength against the forces of nature. He had entered grueling lumberjack competitions, and had placed often. The shelves in his house were filled with trophies that attested to his prowess.

The years marched on relentlessly. The first time he couldn't lift a heavy log, he joked about it; but later that same day I saw him outside alone, straining to lift it. He became irritable whenever anyone teased him about his advancing age, or when he couldn't do something he had done as a younger man.

Four days after his sixty-seventh birthday, he had a heart attack. An ambulance sped him to the hospital while a paramedic administered CPR to keep blood and oxygen flowing. At the

hospital, Dad was rushed into an operating room. He was lucky; he survived.

But something inside Dad died. His zest for life was gone. He obstinately refused to follow doctor's orders. Suggestions and offers of help were turned aside with sarcasm and insults. The number of visitors thinned, then finally stopped altogether. Dad was left alone.

My husband, Dick, and I asked Dad to come live with us on our small farm. We hoped the fresh air and rustic atmosphere would help him adjust. Within a week after he moved in, I regretted the invitation. It seemed nothing was satisfactory. He criticized everything I did. I became frustrated and moody. Soon I was taking my pent-up anger out on Dick. We began to bicker and argue. Alarmed, Dick sought out our pastor and explained the situation. The clergyman set up weekly counseling appointments for us. At the close of each session he prayed, asking God to soothe Dad's troubled mind. But the months wore on and God was silent. Something had to be done and it was up to me to do it.

The next day I sat down with the phone book and methodically called each of the mental health clinics listed in the Yellow Pages. I explained my problem to each of the sympathetic voices that answered. In vain. Just when I was giving up hope, one of the voices suddenly exclaimed, "I just read something that might help you! Let me go get the article." I listened as she read. The article described a remarkable study done at a nursing home. All of the patients were under treatment for chronic depression. Yet their attitudes had improved dramatically when they were given responsibility for a dog.

I drove to the animal shelter that afternoon. After I filled out a questionnaire, a uniformed officer led me to the kennels. The odor of disinfectant stung my nostrils as I moved down the row of pens. Each contained five to seven dogs. Long-haired dogs, curly-haired dogs, black dogs, spotted dogs all jumped up, trying to reach me. I

studied each one but rejected one after the other for various reasons too big, too small, too much hair. As I neared the last pen a dog in the shadows of the far corner struggled to his feet, walked to the front of the run and sat down. It was a pointer, one of the dog world's aristocrats. But this was a caricature of the breed. Years had etched his face and muzzle with shades of gray. His hipbones jutted out in lopsided triangles. But it was his eyes that caught and held my attention. Calm and clear, they beheld me unwaveringly.

I pointed to the dog. "Can you tell me about him?" The officer looked, then shook his head in puzzlement.

"He's a funny one. Appeared out of nowhere and sat in front of the gate. We brought him in, figuring someone would be right down to claim him. That was two weeks ago and we've heard nothing. His time is up tomorrow." He gestured helplessly.

As the words sank in I turned to the man in horror. "You mean you're going to kill him?"

"Ma'am," he said gently, "that's our policy. We don't have room for every unclaimed dog."

I looked at the pointer again. The calm brown eyes awaited my decision. "I'll take him," I said.

I drove home with the dog on the front seat beside me. When I reached the house I honked the horn twice. I was helping my prize out of the car when Dad shuffled onto the front porch.

"Ta-da! Look what I got for you, Dad!" I said excitedly.

Dad looked, then wrinkled his face in disgust. "If I had wanted a dog I would have gotten one. And I would have picked out a better specimen than that bag of bones. Keep it! I don't want it" Dad waved his arm scornfully and turned back toward the house.

Anger rose inside me. It squeezed together my throat muscles and pounded into my temples.

"You'd better get used to him, Dad. He's staying!" Dad ignored me. "Did you hear me, Dad?" I screamed. At those words Dad whirled angrily, his hands clenched at his sides, his eyes narrowed and blazing with hate.

We stood glaring at each other like duelists, when suddenly the pointer pulled free from my grasp. He wobbled toward my dad and sat down in front of him. Then slowly, carefully, he raised his paw.

Dad's lower jaw trembled as he stared at the uplifted paw. Confusion replaced the anger in his eyes. The pointer waited patiently. Then Dad was on his knees hugging the animal.

It was the beginning of a warm and intimate friendship. Dad named the pointer Cheyenne. Together he and Cheyenne explored the community. They spent long hours walking down dusty lanes. They spent reflective moments on the banks of streams, angling for tasty trout. They even started to attend Sunday services together, Dad sitting in a pew and Cheyenne lying quietly at his feet.

Dad and Cheyenne were inseparable throughout the next three years. Dad's bitterness faded, and he and Cheyenne made many friends. Then late one night I was startled to feel Cheyenne's cold nose burrowing through our bed covers. He had never before come into our bedroom at night. I woke Dick, put on my robe and ran into my father's room. Dad lay in his bed, his face serene. But his spirit had left quietly sometime during the night.

Two days later my shock and grief deepened when I discovered Cheyenne lying dead beside Dad's bed. I wrapped his still form in the rag rug he had slept on. As Dick and I buried him near a

favorite fishing hole, I silently thanked the dog for the help he had given me in restoring Dad's peace of mind.

The morning of Dad's funeral dawned overcast and dreary. This day looks like the way I feel, I thought, as I walked down the aisle to the pews reserved for family. I was surprised to see the many friends Dad and Cheyenne had made filling the church. The pastor began his eulogy. It was a tribute to both Dad and the dog who had changed his life. And then the pastor turned to Hebrews 13:2 "Be not forgetful to entertain strangers."

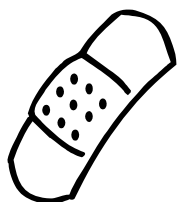
"I've often thanked God for sending that angel," he said.

For me, the past dropped into place, completing a puzzle that I had not seen before: the sympathetic voice that had just read the right article...

Cheyenne's unexpected appearance at the animal shelter. . .his calm acceptance and complete devotion to my father. . .and the proximity of their deaths. And suddenly I understood I knew that God had answered my prayers after all.

**Life is too short for drama & petty things, so laugh hard, love truly and forgive quickly. Live While You Are Alive. Tell the people you love that you love them, at every opportunity. Forgive now those who made you cry. You might not get a second time.**

**And if you don't send this to at least 4 people - who cares? But do share this with someone.**  
**Lost time can never be found**



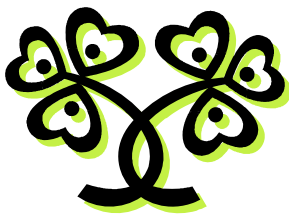
Craig Cazier has had surgery recently and is on the mend.

## TRAINING TIP OF THE MONTH

### Nancy Gyes' 12 Commandments of Agility

1. **Teach your dog how to play** and learn how to use it to enhance your agility performance.
2. **Never take your eyes off your dog.**
3. **"Rover, come" is the most powerful command you have on the agility course.** Use your dog's name to get their attention or to turn them, don't use it on a straightaway, or without expecting a strong response to you.
4. **Tell your dog what you DO want it to do, not what you DON'T want it to do.** The directionals, positions, (come, right/left, down, sit, wait, contact) & the object names should be much more intense commands than "no", "leave-it", "no-sniff", "aaahhh" etc.
5. **Work every part of every obstacle;** every jump, every tunnel entrance, every contact approach, every contact zone, every pole!
6. **A.B.C.'s of agility: A. Look at, B. signal, and C. command, every obstacle.**
7. **Direction BEFORE Object.** Always tell your dog **WHERE** to go before you tell it **WHAT** to do.
8. Always take the extra moment to straighten your dog to contacts and weaves. **Gospel according to Jim\* : Trying to save a foot may cost you a leg!!** (\*Jim Basic)
9. **Never show anger towards your dog on course.** You are the one who taught him his job. Leave the ring smiling, reward the dog for the job he did, put the dog away. Then ask a **better handler than yourself** if it was your fault or the dog's. It IS more than a game, but not worth losing your morals over!
10. **Stop punishing your dog with YOUR lack of enthusiasm!**
11. **Work every course to the sometimes bitter end,** never give up. Even good judges miss calls for bars down or contacts you may think you've missed. Let the **JUDGE** judge the dog's performance.
12. **Never EVER meet a fellow competitor, student, teacher or friend at the finish line with a blow by blow of their faults on course. Say something pleasant, or KEEP YOUR MOUTH SHUT!!!!**

Nancy Gyes, Power Paws Agility, July 1997



# MARCH 2008



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3 "Dodger" Chaffin	4 "Pyper" Moad  CLASS WEEK 5	5 "Abby" Nielsen	6 "Klaus" McCandless	7	8
9 "Dune" Belger "Wunder" Reimann 	10 Rob P'Pool	11 Warren Collins  CLASS WEEK 6	12	13 "Andy" Chaffin	14  ICCKC Agility Trial	15  Ellen McKee  ICCKC Agility Trial
16 Mark Whitham "Abbey" Peterson <b>ICCKC Agility Trial</b>  <b>ERKC Match</b>	17 <b>St Patricks Day</b>	18  CLASS WEEK 7	19 "Spodie" Hankins	20 <b>Club Meeting</b> 	21  Golden Spike Obedience & Rally	22 Golden Spike Obedience & Rally Salt Lake Doberman Pinscher Club Obedience & Rally
23 Elise Fitschen <b>EASTER</b>  Golden Spike Obedience & Rally	24	25 "Killian" Eckman "Darby" Eckman  CGC Test	26	27	28  USRVDTC Agility Trial	29  USRVDTC Agility Trial
30  Rick Belger  <b>USRVDTC Agility Trial</b>	31					

