



The Augusta Kennel Club

an AKC Member Club

NEWSLETTER

March/April 2009



AMERICAN
KENNEL CLUB™

In This Issue

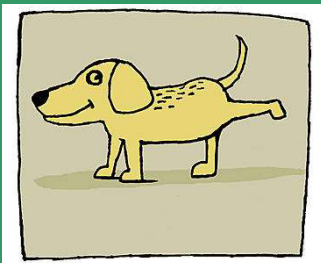
Show Updates	1
Dues Reminder	2
Article: Cancer Study	2
Article: Therapy Dogs	3
Event Calendar	4
ATTS Test	4
Legislative Corner	5-6

Board & Officers

President.....	Carol Cox
Vice Pres.....	Audrey Bye-Weygant
Treasurer	Gloria Janda
Rec. Secretary	Debbie Metts
Corr. Secretary	Sara Martin
Board Member .	Georgie Blackburn
Board Member	Angie Hubbard
Board Member	Nancy Kille
Board Member	Sarah Prince

"Some days you're the dog; some days you're the hydrant."

- Unknown



Show Updates

PEACH BLOSSOM

The Peach Blossom Cluster is just around the corner! April 9-12, 2009, with our club's day on Friday, April 10.

Working volunteers for the show will be needed in Perry on Friday. The club will reimburse one night's hotel stay for club members (up to \$92) that work at least 4 hours on our day at the show. Members that choose not to stay overnight and drive down and back the same day will be offered \$50 for travel expenses.

NORTH AUGUSTA FALL SHOW

On the heels of PBC is our Fall show, and the work has already begun.

Judges that have accepted and signed agreements to judge are Terry and Jackie Stacy, Dr. Carmen Battaglia, Barry Roland (Obed/Rally), and Jerry Iermiero (Obed). One more conformation judge is needed, and an offer is out, pending acceptance.

Committees for the Fall Show are:

Show Chairman	Audrey Bye-Weygant
Obedience/Rally Chairman.....	Angie Hubbard
Trophy Committee	Amy Jenkins/Toni Reese/Sylvia Motzkus
Hospitality.....	Sara Martin
Grounds Chairman	Bill Weygant
Public Information	Toni Reese
Chief Ring Steward	Sara Martin
Catalog Advertising.....	Viola Knoll
Vendors.....	Carol Cox

Due to the increase in superintendent fees from MB-F, it was decided at the last meeting to raise entry fees. While we anticipate a loss on our home show, absorbing additional costs related to last year's AKC's increase in fees and now superintendent is just not viable. Most premium lists have been showing higher entry fees this year. As a result, it was voted to increase Fall entry fees to:

- 🐾 \$28.00 for Breed and Obedience/Rally
- 🐾 \$23.00 for Puppy and Bred By Classes
- 🐾 \$5.00 for Junior Handlers.

While these increases will still not allow us to break even, the increase will help cover the increases costs of hosting the show.

MB-F charges us a full fee for Juniors, and denied our request to waive their fee on these entries. However, it is the strong belief of membership that Juniors are the future of our sport and that the rate to Juniors should not be increased.

FALL MATCH

Committees for the Fall Match are:

Match Chairman.....	Sarah Prince
Match Obedience/Rally Chairman.....	Debbie Metts
Match Secretary.....	Audrey Bye-Weygant

Match entry fees will remain at \$5 for pre-registration, but will increase to \$15 for day of match entries to encourage pre-registration. Last year's successful format of offering a C match in obedience and rally will be repeated in 2009.

Kibble & Bits

New AKC Canine Health Resource Center at www.akcdoghealth.com

AKC has created a new online Canine Health Resource Center at: www.akcdoghealth.com. The site includes the latest in canine health research news, access to major health registries, archives of educational podcasts, newsletters and articles, and links to find the latest information about genetic tests available to help eradicate diseases in dogs.

The site is organized into several sections including one devoted to AKC Canine Health Foundation (CHF) and one to the major canine health registries - the Orthopedic Foundation for Animals (OFA) and the Canine Eye Registration Foundation (CERF). Additionally, the Canine Health Information Center (CHIC), listing participating parent clubs, specific tests, and screening results for an even wider range of genetic tests, can be easily accessed from this new site.

In addition to information for breeders there is a "Resources For Dog Lovers" section with links to materials on Responsible Breeding Practices, How to Find a Responsible Breeder, our Compliance Program, What Puppy Buyers Need to Know About AKC Papers & Identification, AKC CHF Canine Health Fact Sheet, AKC Veterinary Network, and Puppy Buyer tips that help puppy buyers avoid scams.

Visit this new site for a roundup of information and initiatives that promotes happy, healthy dogs.



Membership Dues Reminder

2009 membership dues were due on January 1. There are still some members who have not paid their dues yet. Don't delay and let your membership lapse! Mail your check to Gloria today!

Dogs Are Key to Revolutionary Cancer Study

Canine Cancer Patients Help Advance Research on Promising Vaccine
By John Berman

Kyra looks like any other energetic Rhodesian Ridgeback dog, but she's also a cancer survivor -- and a reason for hope. Two years ago, the 10-year-old canine's owner, Eileen Eisenhower, noticed an eerily familiar lump on Kyra's leg. Eileen is a nurse who treats human cancer patients. "I said, 'Oh, Kyra, you have lymphoma,'" Eisenhower recalled lamenting. "I just knew it."

But Eisenhower converted her pain into promise, enrolling Kyra in a revolutionary vaccine study at the University of Pennsylvania, which had an unlikely collaboration between canine veterinarians and human oncologists. Four million dogs are diagnosed with cancer every year -- cancers very similar to the human versions. "Down to the microscope, they look very similar and they behave similarly," Dr. Robert Vonderheide at the Abramson Cancer Center at the University of Pennsylvania said. And this translates into the most promising aspect of this study: "They also respond to treatment very similarly," Vonderheide points out.

One of the greatest advantages to studying dogs is they age faster -- literally, in "dog years," so scientists can get the results of their studies more quickly. "It's like a compressed biological life span that we can study -- the cancer progression -- and also potentially the response to therapy," said Dr. Karin Sorenmo, associate professor of oncology at the University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine.

In the study involving Kyra, doctors took genetic material from a cancerous tumor, implanted it in healthy infection-fighting b-cells outside the body to train them to attack the lymphoma, and then injected it back into Kyra. Sorenmo was encouraged by the results. "I'm hoping that this is just the beginning of more trials that can benefit helping dogs, helping people."

Kyra is back to her hyperenergetic and healthy self. She and a number of the dogs in the study are now cancer-free.

The researchers estimate they are within two years of testing the vaccine on humans. Without the dogs, they would be more than a decade away. "If we didn't have this information that we're learning from vaccinating people's pets, we would still be studying the vaccine in laboratory dishes without a real hope of going forward in the near future," Vondreheide said.

The researchers' optimism resonates on multiple levels for Eisenhower, as a grateful dog owner and dedicated cancer nurse. "I hope that someday I can give this vaccine to people and to kids -- and to, you know, let people know how it started and where it came from," Eisenhower said. She can tell them it came from man's best friend.

Therapy Dogs Help Girls With Emotional Problems

Dogs Make a Difference at Colorado Youth Program
<http://abcnews.go.com/GMA/TurningPoints/story?id=4079721&page=1>

Studies have shown that owning a dog can be good for your health by lowering blood pressure and stress, and dogs may even be able to sense the onset of a heart attack.

Now there is evidence that man's best friend could soothe those who struggle with emotional problems.

Excelsior, a program in rural Colorado that matches pets with young girls at risk, has had remarkable success in helping the girls.

"I haven't really been stable through any home. I wanted to be involved in gangs and I've been in fights and not really been in a real stable public school," said Meagan, a 16-year-old member of the Excelsior program. All of the girls asked their last names not be used.

Tiffany, 13, has been at Excelsior since she was 11 years old. "Before this I was hospitalized, and before that I was like in different foster homes," she said.

Michelle, 20, said family problems led to her troubling behavior.

"I came here because of, you know, past issues with my family members and a couple deaths in my family and drugs and running away and drinking a lot of alcohol," she said.

During the last two years, though, the stories these girls tell have taken on a distinctly different tone, thanks to weekly visits from therapy dogs Winston, Abraham and Brando.

"They just bring out the good part in you that you don't always know how to bring out," Tiffany said. "And like, even if you're not very much a loving person, you can't help but love these dogs. Even if you're not a trusting person you can't help but want to trust these dogs because they're just so sweet and there."

The dogs, who visit Excelsior on Tuesdays for about two hours of therapy with the girls, are part of the Paws 4 Trust program founded by Jeanne Schoech.

"People that handle dogs that do this work really hope to touch a life," Schoech said. "If it's for one minute, it's better. And one day, it's great. But that's what we want."

According to counselors who work at the school, it's working.

Perhaps it's because many of the girls can relate to the dogs. Winston was rescued from a shelter, as was Brando, who was neglected and abused before he was adopted.

For whatever reason, there is an unmistakable connection between the girls and the dogs.

"If you're talking to a dog about your problems and you're like, 'well, I've been so angry lately, I need help,' it's so much easier than hearing your therapist be like, 'What's inside you? What's really going on?' The dog is just there. It's like it's just there to kiss you and hug you and you don't have to worry about it judging you because it doesn't," Tiffany said.

For Schoech, that response is what it's all about.

"Time and again I have seen my dog make a difference to a child, or a youngster, a young teenager and I felt like I was walking with an angel," she said.



Therapy Dogs in the CSRA

Interested in volunteering in our community by joining a local therapy dog visitation group here in the CSRA?

Augusta Kennel Club member Marlene Stachowiak of Jae-Mar-S Academy of Dog Obedience is a board member of Therapy Dogs, Inc., and along with several certified local TD Inc. Evaluators, certify teams for therapy visits and organize groups to visit area nursing homes, children's hospitals, children's literacy programs, military hospitals, and psychiatric hospitals.

For many of these residents, the visits by the therapy dogs is the highlight of their month, and something they eagerly look forward to.

Therapy Dogs is rewarding for the dogs, the handlers, and the person being visited. Several Augusta Kennel Club members are already active in visitations.

No special training is required, but basic obedience skills are necessary to keep both dogs and handlers safe.

For more information, contact Marlene at (706) 863-3737. For the Therapy Dog visitation schedule, check the Jaemars website at www.jaemars.com.



Diaper Warning

If you have diapers in your home (children or adult), feminine products, or liners that are used in doggie diapers, check to see if non-toxic gel beads are used to absorb liquids. They are also often used in potting soils, but at a much lower concentration.

Unfortunately, non-toxic does not always mean a product is safe, and many dogs find the scent of these products irresistible.

If ingested, the gel beads expand in the dog's stomach or intestinal tract, which can cause a blockage, possibly requiring surgery to clear them.

If you use these products, carefully dispose of them to protect your canines.



Motel 6 Offers Discounts

Motel 6 now offers AKC registered dogs and their owners a 10% discount on rooms nationwide.

Use the access code CP542764 when making reservations at Motel 6 properties, and CP542765 for reservations at Studio 6 motels.

Event Calendar

CLUB EVENTS

May Meeting Education Presentation: Cruciate Ligament Injuries and Treatment Options by Dr. Dirk Motzkus, Grovetown Animal Hospital

Augusta Kennel Club Dog Show, Obedience & Rally Trial, Perry, GA – Friday, April 10, 2009.

Augusta Kennel Club, B Conformation Match, C Obedience/Rally Match, North Augusta, SC, Friday October 2, 2009

Augusta Kennel Club Dog Show, Obedience & Rally Trial, North Augusta, SC-Saturday, October 3, 2009

Augusta Kennel Club ATTS Temperament Test, Eisenhower Ball Fields, Augusta, GA, Saturday, November 7, 2009

AREA EVENTS

Want to know what our club is up to? Check out the event calendar on our website at www.augustakennelclub.org. The event calendar is regularly updated with information on our future events, and also includes a handy list of upcoming shows in Georgia, South Carolina and North Carolina.

ATTS Temperament Test

This November, the club will host its second ATTS Temperament Test. The test will be held on Saturday, November 7, 2009 at the Eisenhower Ball Fields in Augusta.

This test is an extremely valuable tool in assessing and certifying temperament in pets, rescues, therapy dogs, breeding stock, and in competition dogs. The dog and handler navigate through a course of stimuli, simulating a "day in the park", with increasing levels of auditory, visual and tactile stimuli for the dog to react to. The test gives owners insight into their dog's temperament, specifically because the dog is "on its own" in terms of reactions to the different tests. There is no interaction between dog and handler during the navigation of the course. The handler is merely "a moving post to which the dog is tethered."

For those working at one of the stations or observing the test, it is a valuable and educational opportunity to learn about canine temperament, as our 2007 group of station workers will agree. Everyone who elected to work that day took away greater insight into our canine partners and what makes them tick. Many handlers were surprised at their dog's reactions during the test, many exhibiting reactions not expected.

No special training is needed or suggested to take the test, and each dog is evaluated as an individual, against its own breed, and with its life experiences and training taken into consideration. Dogs successfully completing the test will be certified and may add the title TT after their name. Mixed breeds may also participate in the test; but must be spayed or neutered to be certified.

If you are interested in working a station this year, please contact Audrey. The test requires at least 13 people to run the test, so plenty of opportunities to help out are available.

For more information or to pre-register your dog, see the attached flyer. Space is limited to 45 dogs, so sign up early!

Legislative Corner

An important message about knowing where your charitable donations go...

By Judith M. Erlanger

Yankee Golden Retriever Club

Mass Federation of Dog Clubs and Responsible Dog Owners

Inertia is eroding our rights as dog fanciers! Animal rights activists have been busy around the country, and not in a good way!

- In Florida's Palm Beach County, mandatory spay and neuter legislation was passed. In neighboring Volusia County, such legislation is on the agenda, despite vocal protests by dog fanciers.
- In Virginia, the legislature passed a bill that will equate hobby breeders as commercial breeders. They will be subject to the same licensing and inspections as commercial breeders.
- In Los Angeles, the city council just passed mandatory spay and neuter legislation.

What is going on?

HSUS (Humane Society of the United States) and PETA have been extremely active in this legislative off season. These organizations have millions of dollars to spend on lobbying legislators, and they have made excellent use of their resources. Both groups have also been effective in placing their people as aides to legislators at all levels of the government. Legislative aides work directly for individual legislators. They act in many capacities including scheduling of legislators' meetings with constituents, assisting in drafting of bills, answering phones, and other support duties. Aides can also act as "filters" for or against groups with political axes to grind.

In MassFed, we work to know legislators personally – to become "faces" behind the letters, faxes and e-mails we send regarding pending legislation. There are some legislators who will not meet with us at all, because we can't get past their aides. When we have tried to get other dog fanciers who live in those legislators' districts, we are rebuffed. And THAT is the problem – inertia.

The law in Virginia was successfully passed because the dog people were not able to work together. This is a quote from Bob Kane of the Sportsmen's and Animal Owners' Voting Alliance:

"The Old Dominion dog groups opposed to HB538 failed to cooperate with each other, coordinate their efforts, or compensate for the adverse actions of VFDCB's [Virginia Federation of Dog Clubs and Breeders] dismissed lobbyist. Our lobbying effort was very frankly embarrassing."

This could easily happen here in Massachusetts or in any state. We dog enthusiasts need to band together. We must be able to call on other members of the fancy who are not members of MassFed when critical legislation arises. Some of you may remember that a bill similar to Virginia's that would have equated hobby breeders with commercial breeders was filed here in Mass. It actually made it through much of the legislative process to a committee hearing. When I e-mailed every YGRC member on our list that expressed an interest in breeding, I got vitriolic emails from some people who thought I had sent spam, and silence from most of the rest. No one else from YGRC came to the meeting. I do not know if any one sent written testimony, but thanks if you did. If you didn't, please consider responding to the next e-mail, because I can assure you, mandatory spay and neuter legislation WILL be filed here at some point in the future, and I will need your help. All of us will need your help if we want to continue having pure bred dogs from responsible breeders.

How do HSUS and PETA have so much money? It isn't just through donations from their television and print ads and from their mailings. They also derive income from the internet by partnering with other groups' websites.

Last week I received an e-mail asking to go to a rescue dog website, The Fund for Animals, and to "click" on the sponsor's box so that food/money would be donated to the rescue group. As a Golden Retriever person, I responded the same way any of us would: I went directly to the website and prepared to click to make a donation. Then for some reason (probably my MassFed antenna) I had a look around the website and clicked the "Charitable Partners" link and then down to the "Fund for Animals" link. This is what I found:

"The Fund for Animals was founded in 1967 by prominent author and animal advocate Cleveland Amory, and for 37 years, spearheaded some of the most significant events in the history of the animal protection movement by employing hard-hitting advocacy campaigns and operating world-famous animal care facilities, such as the Black Beauty Ranch. The Fund's historic victories have saved thousands of animals from cruelty and suffering.

In 2005, The Fund for Animals and The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) joined together to form an unprecedented partnership for animals. Since then The Fund has expanded its efforts to protect animals in the courts and provide for their veterinary, sanctuary, and rehabilitative needs at direct animal care facilities.

The Fund has won landmark lawsuits to protect animals from hunting and trapping, and the organization is currently fighting for animals with the help of the Animal Protection Litigation section. This group of full-time attorneys, law clerks, and pro bono law firms are defending animals in federal and state courts from cruelty and abuse. The Fund's current cases seek to protect endangered species, stop the abuse of circus elephants, keep national wildlife refuges safe for animals, and much more. ."

Basically, if I had clicked on that website's link, I would have been funding HSUS, the very organization that wants to take away our right to breed dogs. Any one of us who clicked on the link accidentally helped to end the dog fancy. When you receive e-mails like this, please do a little digging to see where your money or support is really going.

See You At The April Meeting!