

TAILS OF THE PLAINS

April 1, 2004

Next meeting ~ April 13th @ 7:00 pm ~ Hoffbrau
Steakhouse ~I40 West ~arrive early to order at 6:30

Carolyn Brand, Editor
Lynne Tellman, Publisher

With our annual obedience trials the following weekend, this is a meeting you won't want to miss. Come early to order from the following menu choices:

Jerry Starnes Special-\$10.99 which is a teriyaki marinated 8 oz. top sirloin.

Grilled Boneless Chicken Breast-\$8.95 which is an 8 oz. grilled breast topped with lemon butter.

Each of the above meals come with salad, baked potato and hot bread.

Or, you may choose a Brau Chef's Salad which has smoked turkey & cured ham with tomatoes, egg, cheese and bacon bits for \$8.35.

Here's a worthwhile project. Terri Sparks, the pastor at the VA hospital is needing volunteers to care for patients pets. Some patients have checked themselves out against doctors orders because they have no one else to call. Contact Terri at work: 354-7814 or home: 381-9664.

SPOTC is in desperate need of volunteers for the upcoming May agility trial. Several key members will be out of town May 1 & 2 leaving their trial committee a bit in a panic. If you are entered, please volunteer your assistance. If you think you might be interested in learning more about agility, this would be an excellent way to do so. Drive down for a day, work and watch these teams have fun! Ronda Clark-798-1185 or capstonecairns@yahoo.com

Q's & Legs Report

Since my last brag, we have gone to Garden City and Fort Worth, so I will try and get you caught up. In Garden City, Harley won 1st in Open B and 3rd in Utility B, and High In Trial, Tank qualified in Open B with a 194 1/2. On Sunday Tank qualified in Open B with a 196 1/2 and Harley placed 3rd in Utility B. We just got back and off again to Fort Worth on Friday for the Golden Specialty. What can I say? The blonde gene showed its pretty head at the Specialty. The red dog, aka Tank, some how thought after jumping over the high jump that he had picked up the dumb bell and had it in his mouth ----Not!!! and came back over the high jump to a beautiful front. The judge was just sick not to mention me. We only had 1/2 pt

taken off up to then and the high jump was the last exercise. He is still and I am afraid will always be a work in progress!!!! On Saturday, Harley placed 2nd in Open B and 4th in Utility B. Tank managed to remember to pick up the dumb bell this time and ended up with a 196. On Sunday, Harley won 1st in Open B-199 and 3rd in Utility B. We ended up with High In Trial. Tank qualified with a 196. Moments of brilliance and then it's gone, but I see promise. Oh well, its back to training!!! Talk to you soon. Judy DeShong

Toby received his first Agility title in Albuquerque this past weekend. He took 1st place in all 4 runs (JWW & STD). We are very proud of him.

*Are your Advantage and Frontline products counterfeits? Check them out at:
<http://www.epa.gov/pesticides/factsheets/petproduct.htm>*

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Brag's continued

We now get to move up to OPEN!

*Sue Boger
Toby, Rosie & Bonnie*

Mister Moss has brags. After running his first double Q at San Antonio, he went on to win a 1st in a standard class of 68 exc B 20" dogs (43 border collies) in Louisville KY. He also completed the 60 weave pole challenge in 15.77 seconds at Clean Run Camp!

Talitha got double Qs at Louisville and Mattaponi, VA. with a 2nd and 4th at Mattaponi, in front of my brother and sister-in-law too!!! She ran 13 sec under SCT for a 4th at Blue Ridge Dog Training Club in Berryville, VA. She also q'd (5th in each) in ISC jumpers and standard in Louisville.....

*We have been to a lot of trials this year so far!!! Ready to stay home and relax!
Nicky Trowbridge*

Star got her second Utility leg in Scottsbluff under the "Butcher", Daniel to his friends, and 4th place. Star then finished her Utility Dog title this last weekend in Wichita KS under Chris Cornell with 1st place and 187 1/2.

Wink also got a 4 point major in Wichita under Michelle Billings putting her only a couple of singles away from her championship.

Jerry Smith

Amarillo Agility Trials Need Workers May 29 -31

If you would like to help out by working at the May 2004 AOTC Agility Trials over Memorial Day Weekend please contact Laveta Bryan (Chief Ring Steward) at voftheairways@hotmail.com Or sign up at the April meeting! Thank you.

March 9th Board Meeting

Jerry Smith called the board meeting to order at 8:35. Carol, Joe, Robin, John, Michelle, Donna, and Lynne were present.

Trial Secretary incentive: Joe Nelson presented the motion--Any person from the club who acts as a trial secretary for our club will receive free entries for one trial during the next calendar year for a maximum of 2 dogs at the same trial. Carol seconded it. It was voted and approved.

Agility Class Sign Up: Discussion was raised about the way signup was handled for agility classes. Several issues were discussed including the need for teachers to allow for more students, having more teachers, not signing up early, the number of handlers at the excellent level, and difficulty in getting to signup if from out of town. The issue will be sent to the agility committee. It was also suggested an article be written for the newsletter.

Financial Committee: The board reappointed Carol Brand and Janet Nelson to the audit committee. They added Sue Boger to the group.

Corporate Sponsor: John Beard presented information on the Big Texan becoming a corporate sponsor for our trial in the future. The board approved. and set \$750 for all 3 trial in a year or \$300 per trial.

Agility Needs: Janet brought up the issue of replacing more agility equipment and the cost. Carol moved we allow for the additional money needed with Donna seconding. Voted and passed.

Treasury changes: The amount of money to be moved to the building fund was changed.

Meeting adjourned at 9:30.

Minutes from March 9, 2004

The meeting was called to order by President Jerry Smith at 7:10pm.

Committee Reports

Obedience: We still need volunteers for the trial next month. Everything is moving along nicely.

Agility: Lavetta has started collecting names for the May trial

Therapy: TDI tested 23 dogs in Feb. Carla is still looking for reading volunteers.

Seminar: Carol Brand presented the information on the agility seminar to be held May 8 & 9. We will have a random draw for working positions. Jerry Brown will offer private lessons. Please watch for additional information.

Connie Cleveland has been booked for May 14 & 15, 2005!!!! It will be held in our training building

1st readings for Tina Morgan and Pat Fogelson 2nd Readings for Stephanie Elsa, Erin, Steve, and Joann Norris, Frances and David Concha, CC Hockett, Joan Sibley, and Carol Bishop.

Unfinished Business

Training Building: Lights for parking lot will be put up by the landlord. The locks have been changed again. We have bought a sign to light the entrance of the building. David Paul volunteered to keep it updated!

Pictures on the walls: Judy and Jerry presented the information on putting pictures on the wall of the training building if you receive a new title. You will have to supply the picture and pay for the frame, which should be black. The size of the picture will depend on the title.

8 x 10 CD, CDX, UD, NA, NAJ, OA, OAJ, AX, and AXJ 11x14 UDX, MX MXJ 16 x 20 OTCH and MACH

Jan Agility Trial Sec: Susan Kraus has volunteered to fill this position.

New Business:

Obedience Trial 2005: Our date has been selected as July 16 & 17. We return to the civic center. We are looking for a volunteer to be the trial secretary.

Jr Handlers: Tammie Heggie suggested that Jr. handlers receive recognition at our trials. It was moved and approved to add to future premiums the formal recognition for Jr handlers.

The meeting was adjourned at 8pm.

Membership Updates

An updated version of the Membership Directory will be emailed in April. Please send in any changes not already reported. Thanks.
Erin

New Members

Carol Bishop

1810 S Roberts

Amarillo TX 79107

(H) 381-0440

jimmycarolb@msn.com

David & Frances Concha

115 Santa Barbara

Dumas TX 79029

(H) 935-5502 (W) 935-5629

joefran@amaonline.com

Stefanie Elsea

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Amarillo TX 79118

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cs_elsea@yahoo.com

Mike, CC, Ryan & Tyler Hockett

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Amarillo TX 79106

(H) 355-3125

evac_1@yahoo.com

Steve, Erin & JoAnn Norris

8308 Victory Dr

Amarillo TX 79119

(H) 467-8519 (W) 679-4094 (E)

evac_1@yahoo.com

Joan Sibley

4108 Stony Pt

Amarillo TX 79121-1824

(H) 353-5172 (W) 499-3577

(each of these was inadvertently dropped from membership)

Bettye Cutrell

17801 E St Francis St

Amarillo TX 79108

(H) 806 335-1459

Shelli Sissel

PO Box 32

Bushland TX 79012

(H) 806 356-6726

sisselteam@yahoo.com

Dale & Sally Swan

15117 XIT Tr

Amarillo TX 79118

(H) 806 622-2000

2swans2@cox.net

Correction

Mark, Debra, Jenny & Ian Aldred
Bushland TX

Changes

Susan Kraus
krausms@yahoo.com
Steve & Donna Hilton
Delete obsolete email (none available)

New Applicants

Pat Fogelson
Tina Morgan

Guarding the Guard Dogs?

Are you a dog "owner"-or a dog "guardian"?

By Jon Katz

Last month, In Defense of Animals, a California-based animal rights organization, sent me some materials about its "Guardian Campaign." A polite letter complimented me on my most recent book, then requested that I use the term "guardian" rather than "owner" in future writings about dogs.

The benefits of relating to animals as guardians rather than as owners would be "far reaching," wrote IDA president Dr. Elliot Katz (who's no relation). Changing how we speak would help change how we act. In a world where dogs are protected rather than owned, Katz argued, it would be easier to crack down on animal abuse, end the puppy-mill trade, and stop the killing of animals at shelters.

As a dog lover, owner of a rescue dog, and member of two rescue groups, I'm not convinced there will be concrete benefits from this metaphoric, even Orwellian revolution. How exactly will these semantic changes improve the lot of animals? Why can't we shut down puppy mills, end some cruel animal research, save the lives of dogs and cats in shelters, prosecute animal abuse, and still call ourselves "owners"?

IDA's letter proudly pointed out that San Francisco; West Hollywood; Berkeley, Calif.; Boulder, Colo.; Amherst, Mass., and the state of Rhode Island have already enacted ordinances changing owners into guardians. (Some of those jurisdictions have also embraced the animal-rights movement's other language crusade, changing "pets" into "companion animals.")

Although IDA cited these cities and state as evidence that the notion of "guardian" is spreading, to me it suggests the opposite: Its successes are confined to left-wing pockets. I'll be impressed when Kansas City takes up the idea.

Social movements are only as effective as their ability to win popular support. I'm currently living in rural upstate New York, and I showed the IDA packet to Sandra, a sheep farmer who lives down the road with her female partner. She was shocked. "I love my Rottweiler," Sandra told me. "But I'd love to marry my partner and I can't. I have to say I'm a bit uncomfortable with dogs having more rights than I do. Me first." Sandra had just filed legal papers to have her partner declared her legal guardian in the event of serious illness. She said she was not about to do the same for

her dog.

I reminded Sandra that animal rights don't really come at the expense of human rights-there's no reason both species can't have some protection. But her reservations are important. Easing animal suffering is inarguably worthwhile; turning animals into a kind of human is another matter.

And such a transformation seems the goal of some animal activists. My IDA packet contained a testimonial from a Michael Mountain of the Best Friends Animal Sanctuary. "People of other genders, races and even age groups were once treated as property in this country," Mountain wrote. "Now, it is time for 'people' of other species to be accorded the same simple dignity of being recognized, not as someone else's property but as beings in their own right."

Mountain couldn't have made the point more dramatically-or offensively. I don't care to jump in with a moral value system that equates my beloved border collies with human slaves. Nothing about this comparison helps animals. It distorts their true natures and diminishes ours.

The guardian campaign is a vivid example of the growing tendency to blur the boundaries between us and our pets. Many Americans have already stopped seeing their dogs and cats as animals. They're family members, emotional support systems, metaphors for issues from our own pasts, aids for healing and growth, children with fur.

Seeing them the way we see ourselves-as having human thoughts and needs, human rights-is another kind of abuse and exploitation. It is cruel to crate a child, but it's often helpful and soothing to crate a dog. No human would want to spend five minutes in a kennel, yet good kennels, much maligned by deeply attached pet owners, are often the safest and best places to leave dogs when we leave home.

Seeing dogs as piteous, deprived, abused, and needy can lead us to treat them unwisely. Vets cite overfeeding and the resultant epidemic obesity as a major killer of dogs and cats in America. Yet I can't count how many times I've heard somebody say, "I feed him because I just can't bear to starve him." Or "I just can't resist when he begs for food. He's so cute." Any vet or animal nutritionist would tell these people that they're doing as much harm to their cute little beggars by overfeeding them as they would by kicking them.

Continued page 5

People who see their dogs as humanlike often struggle to train them properly, especially if they believe they were abused or mistreated. Owners sometimes think their dogs have already suffered so much that they couldn't possibly inflict any more criticism. Yet it's that very firm, effective training that would make those dogs happier and more secure. And what about the growing number of owners who find neutering cruel or unbearable, because they would find it so? Refusing to neuter may put their own pet or someone else's in danger-causing aggression, running away, and unwanted litters. Or the pet owners who make their dogs hyper by believing they need to "play" continuously, like overprogrammed boomer children? They drag them to unruly play groups, toss Frisbees and balls night and day, haul them to an endless round of organized activities-but fail to teach them how to be calm.

The humanlike view of dogs affects the decision about when to euthanize a sick or elderly pet. I recently attended two veterinary conventions where scores of vets told me their biggest recent problem is people who see their pets as so human that they simply cannot end their lives or suffering, no matter the cost or the pain.

There is no evidence that dogs have the kind of complex emotional lives and value systems that we do. It's one reason why we love them so much, in fact. They are neither "good" nor "bad." They don't hold grudges, act in petty ways, or seek revenge. They read our moods, but not our minds. If they did, we'd start loving them as we love other humans-which could mean a lot less than we love them now.

Dogs are not "people" of another species. They are another species. To train and care for them properly, to show them how to live in our complex

world, requires first and foremost that we understand that. I owe my dogs much-more than I can say-but they are not my "companions"-as if we voluntarily chose to hang out together but none of us has authority over the others. I bought and/or acquired them. I own them. I am profoundly responsible for their care and well being.

Guardianship, a word always applied to human beings, implies equality-the highest and perhaps most noble of all goals in this democratic nation. Ownership implies responsibility. Americans who own dogs need to be more responsible for them, literally and emotionally-not more equal to them.

The drama of the modern dog is that he is segregated from society-from work, children, public places-and then blamed for not knowing how to live in our world. The things he wants to do-have sex, roll in gross stuff, roam freely, squabble with other dogs, chew shoes, pee on every other tree-are either illegal or frowned upon. His challenge isn't to become a free and equal person in the best traditions of our society but to learn how to live in the alien world of people.

Guardianship suggests dogs have a right to live their own lives as they wish. This is impossible in our dog-unfriendly world. Ownership implies a human duty to help the dog adjust to this difficult, inhospitable place.

"Dog owner" is a proud title. It suits me fine.

Jon Katz is the author of *The New Work of Dogs: Tending to Love, Life and Family*. You can reach him at jdkat3@aol.com.
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CKC WAKE UP! <http://www.petitiononline.com/DLCC/petition.html>

Paws for dog rights! <http://www.petitiononline.com/Paws/petition.html>

Amarillo Obedience Trial

by Lynne Tellman

The trial will be on April 17 and 18. We will need everyone who can to help on Friday, April 16 to come to the training building at 8pm. We will load equipment and be at the Soccer Center by 8:30. Please come help Mike Hibbs get everything in place. You may contact Tammie Heggie if you can help by stewarding on Sat or Sun. The last I heard she still needed a few more people. Don't forget you get a free lunch if you come

help!!! Terrie Mayfield is in charge of the raffle. If you have a donation please contact her or get it to me before the trial. Judy DeShong has ordered all of the trophies. If you volunteered for a special trophy please don't forget to pay her. John Beard is working hard on the banner. If you still want something in the catalogue you may contact him or Laura out at the kennels. Thanks in advance to everyone for helping make our trial a success.

SPORTING DOG FANCIERS OF NEW MEXICO

proudly presents

Canine Health Symposium

Truths and Myths: Screening for Blood and Immune Diseases

with

Dr. W. Jean Dodds

Saturday, July 10, 2004

Seminar Outline:

- 1 The need for genetic screening for hip dysplasia, eye and blood diseases.
- 2 Autoimmune issues
- 3 Thyroid disease: testing & treatment approaches; screening breeding stock to evaluate fitness for breeding.
- 4 Current controversy about overvaccinating pets will be addressed.
- 5 Case study discussions
- 6 Questions & answers

About our speaker:

Dr. Dodds received her veterinary degree with honors from Ontario Veterinary College, University of Toronto in 1964. Upon graduation, she accepted a position with the NY State Health Dept. in Albany and began comparative studies of animals with inherited and acquired bleeding diseases. She culminated her work with the Health Department as Chief of the Laboratory of Hematology at the Wadsworth Center. In 1980, she also became Executive Director of the NY State Council on Human Blood and Transfusion Services. In 1986, Dr. Dodds moved to Southern California to establish Hemopet, the first non-profit national blood bank program for animals.

Over the years, she has been awarded honors too numerous to mention, including Outstanding Veterinarian of the Year by the AVMA, Dogdom's Woman of the Year by Gaines, the Centennial Medal from the Veterinary Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania, Holistic Veterinarian of the Year by the AHVMA and many more.

Today, Dr. Dodds continues to expand Hemopet's range of services while consulting in clinical pathology throughout the world. She travels to teach animal health care professionals, companion animal fanciers and pet owners about hematology, blood banking, immunology, endocrinology, nutrition and holistic medicine.

The symposium will be held at the Howard Johnson, East, 15 Hotel Circle NE, Albuquerque, NM (505) 296-4852 - (South of Lomas & Eubank).

Canine Health Symposium
Truths and Myths: Screening for Blood and Immune Diseases
with

Dr. W. Jean Dodds

Saturday, July 10, 2004

REGISTRATION FORM

REGISTER EARLY AS SEATING IS LIMITED

Last Day for registration is June 15, 2004

Please Print

Name _____

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Day Phone () _____ Evening Phone () _____

FAX() _____ Email _____ @ _____

Signature _____

Lunch will be provided. I would like a vegetarian meal

Send Registration with \$ 45.00 payment to:

Sporting Dog Fanciers of New Mexico

Sherry Siegel

PO Box 535

Los Lunas, NM 87031

or for immediate registration

Phone (505)866-0417

LAST DAY FOR REGISTRATION IS JUNE 15, 2004

Amarillo Obedience Training Club

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We're on the web!
aotcnet.com

An AKC licensed club.



Perspective

The board of AOTC listened last month as members expressed their displeasure with the unavailability of agility classes for all and how they felt the method of getting into the classes was unfair. After everyone had their chance to vent and present their idea of how to best handle the problem, the board moved on to other business. You see there is not an easy solution to this problem and for sure not one that will satisfy everyone.

We are a diverse group of persons who enjoy the sport of dog training, as well as the social aspect of the sport. We are made up solely of volunteers, that means all who graciously supply their services to the club do so without obligation and without pay.

I love this club and the people in it, for what they mean in my life, how they've changed it, and what I have learned from so many of you. So it troubles me when members are upset when they think club matters aren't handled to their satisfaction. And I'm especially troubled when accusations begin to fly.

When we come right down to it, there isn't a "fair" way to handle these matters. Is it fair to make sure that everyone has access to a class, everyone except the instructors who have given up their time and want to take a class the same night they teach? Is it fair to make classes that have reached their maximum enrollment register by random draw? What if two

from one family drive together a long distance and only one gets into the class? That wouldn't seem fair if it happened to you, would it?

What I would remind you is that if you are old enough to drive to your classes you learned long ago that life isn't fair. But if you are that same adult you also know you have alternatives. In these days of dog clubs that struggle to keep afloat, our club is experiencing growing pains. What a terrible problem to have, too many students! Too many dogs living a better life because their people want to do activities with them. Bummer!

Solutions? There will always be more classes, if you didn't get in this time, next time you will. This doesn't mean you can't train! Training alone can be wonderfully beneficial to both you and your dog. Sometimes the whole social aspect is very distracting and you can get a lot done in a short time if it's just you and a friend with your dogs. Teachers, be extravagant with your class limitations. Seldom does every registrant attend every class. Leave a little more room, to be fair.

And everyone, let's keep this all in perspective. We are all welcome at the events this club sponsors. I can think of no time in my history with AOTC when someone was deliberately left out of a club event. All teachers, officers, stewards, committee chairs, all members are volunteers who do their best to give precious time to the club and still have time to spend with special canine friends and family. Remember why you started all of this, to be with your dog and achieve some goals together, all the while having the time of your life.