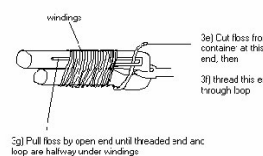
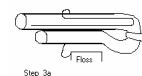




# Do-It-Yourself Line

From club member Sarah Helber comes these directions on how to make a great tracking line.

1. Buy a 50' line (I like 1/4" braided nylon, some folks use parachute cord) and clip fastener that will fit over the line (smaller is lighter). Also buy unwaxed dental floss and clear fingernail polish.
2. Pull about 2 1/2" of line through the clip and double it back along the line to form a tight loop for the clip. Hold the pieces together.
3. Whip the line, using the dental floss as follows:
  - a. Lay a narrow loop of floss about 2" long along the line with the open end away from the fastener loop, and the loop of floss slightly past the fastener loop.
  - b. Hold the open end of the floss against the line until the winding begins.
  - c. Starting near the open end (leaving a little floss), wind the long end of the floss closely toward the loop end.
  - d. Wind the floss tightly (and in the direction of the twist of the rope if there is one) until the floss tightens the line onto the clip fastener.
  - e. Cut the floss, leaving about 3" more floss.
  - f. Thread the end of the floss through the loop in the floss from Step a.
  - g. Using the other (open) end of the floss, pull the loop halfway under the windings.
  - h. Trim both ends of the floss even with the windings.
4. Coat the entire area of dental floss with the clear nail polish and let dry.
5. For early training, place a knot at 10' and 20'.
6. Once you reach 20' in your training, you can remove the 10' knot. By then the line will be well-used. Re-measure the 20' knot and adjust as needed. Measure out to 39' and make 3 knots about a hand's width apart. Work with it awhile longer to let it adjust to its length, then cut to 40' (the maximum length according to the regulations).



NOTE: I actually make the knots at 29' and cut the rope to 30'. 40' is just extra line to have to worry about if you're staying close to the track.

## President's Message



Rowdy tracking his bone!

We are in the summer of our second year as a tracking club. In that short a time we have accomplished a great deal.

Classes went very well this year, and comments from all the classes were very positive. Thanks to everyone who volunteered throughout the year.

A club is only as strong as its members.

The next meeting will be our annual meeting. I would encourage everyone to attend as that will be the meeting in which the new slate of officers will be elected.

As outgoing President I want to thank everyone for their interest and contribution of ideas and time. I am sure the new President will find as much pleasure and enjoyment in serving as I did this past year.

Thanks again to all the club members and see you at the August meeting.

### Inside this issue:

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DFW TRACKING CLUB

Tracks



## Schedule of Events

- ① 6/16/2007 DFWTC Meeting -  
Place: AA Credit Union
- ① 8/11/2007 DFWTC Meeting -  
Place: AA Credit Union - Annual  
Meeting, Election of Officers
- ① 10/6/2007 Fall Tracking Classes  
Start
- ① 10/13/2007 DFWTC Meeting -  
Place: AA Credit Union
- ① 10//28/2007 Sanctioned Tracking  
Match
- ① 12/16/2007 VST/TDX Match

# JUNE 2007

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat           |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|---------------|
|     |     |     |     |     | 1   | 2             |
| 3   | 4   | 5   | 6   | 7   | 8   | 9             |
| 10  | 11  | 12  | 13  | 14  | 15  | 16<br>Meeting |
| 17  | 18  | 19  | 20  | 21  | 22  | 23            |
| 24  | 25  | 26  | 27  | 28  | 29  | 30            |

## May 2007 Board of Directors Minutes

### DFW Tracking Club

May 13, 2007 Board Meeting Minutes

11:30 am (Meeting called to order)

In Attendance: Monica Becherer, Charlene Dunn, Deb Lyons & Cindy Morrow

#### Nominating Committee Report:

The board needs to elect one officer and two active members plus two back-up members as the Nominating Committee.

Active members are comprised of: Monica Becherer, Marina Beck-Edwards, Frank Brauer, Bill Chaillot, Karen Cook, Deb Lyons, Charlene Dunn, Julie Gatlin, Sarah Helber, Cindy Morrow, Connie Napier, Daphne Price, Cherita Sherrill, Koni Vahdat, Benita Zapata, and Pam Raymond.

All the club board positions are open for nomination. Positions are President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Member-at-Large. The one-year term starts with the annual meeting in August 2007.

The Nominating Committee will consist of Cindy Morrow as Chairperson with Koni Vahdat and Cherita Sherrill as the serving members. Back-up members will be Karen Cook and Benita Zapata. Cindy made a motion to accept the committee and Deb seconded. Motion passed. The Secretary will notify the members that were elected to be on the nominating committee.

#### IRS Report:

Charlene read the determination letter from the IRS. There was discussion of what needed to be done next. Charlene had the form for Franchise Tax exemption that we have been waiting for the IRS to send in. We must include a copy of the IRS letter to send with the Franchise Tax exemption form to the State Comptroller and it must be sent by August. Once we receive the ruling from the comptroller, we will be able to purchase the class materials, printing, and other goods needed to run the club tax exempt.

Deb made motion to adjourn; Charlene seconded the motion. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned 12:00 pm.



# April 2007 Meeting Minutes

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## DFW Tracking Club

April 17, 2007 Meeting Minutes

7:45 pm (Meeting called to order)

In Attendance: Sarah Helber, Koni Vahdat, Stephanie Ayers, Charlene Dunn, Deb Lyons (Low attendance due to extremely bad weather).

Charlene read the board meeting minutes and minutes from the last meeting. Sarah made a motion to accept the minutes as read and Deb seconded. Motion passed.

President's Report: Not present—no report

Vice-President's Report: Not present—no report

Secretary's Report: There have been inquiries to when the fall classes will start. If we start October 6, 2007, the last class would be November 24, 2007 (which is Thanksgiving weekend). Deb made a motion to start classes on October 6, 2007. Koni seconded. Motion passed.

Treasurer's Report: Charlene passed out the report. Koni made a motion to accept the report. Deb seconded. Motion passed.

## Committees:

Tracking Trial Committee: The club needs a match/test secretary. Deb agreed to be test secretary and Koni agreed help. The committee needs to ask Julie G. and Karen C. to help. The target dates for match/test is October 21, 2007 (TD), and December 16, 2007 (TDX & VST). Kathy Daniel expressed an interest to judge, but we will need another judge. Need to discuss more at the next meeting.

Nominating Committee: For next year's officers—The club needs five members to serve as the committee. The committee will consist of one board member and four active members (two on committee & two alternates). The board will elect the committee at the next board meeting. The committee needs to have a slate of officers to present at the June meeting.

Seminar Committee: Target date for the seminar is March 1 & 2, 2008. The club needs more options for the seminar in regards to location and speakers. Deb made a motion to table this item until the June meeting. Sarah seconded. Motion passed.

Old Business: There was discussion about the letter that needs to be sent to the AKC. Before we petition to waive the second match we need to gather information on members such as years in the sport of tracking and other pertinent AKC match/trial information. Sarah made a motion to email the roster to members to help collect information needed. Koni seconded. Motion passed.

New Business: First reading of new member application for Debbie Ligon and Karen Yates.

Next meeting June 16, 2007, at the AA Credit Union.

Koni made motion to adjourn. Deb seconded. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned 8:45 pm.



# June 2007 Meeting Minutes

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## **DFW Tracking Club**

June 16, 2007 Meeting Minutes

12:07 pm (Meeting called to order)

In Attendance: Monica Becherer, Karen Cook, Cindy Morrow, Charlene Dunn, Cherita Sherrill, Koni Vahdat, Sarah Helber, Marian Beck-Edwards, and Julie Gatlin. Guests: Natasha Decker, Cindi Todd, and Tracy Freeling.

### **Minutes:**

Minutes of last meeting were read by Monica. Motion to accept Minutes with spelling corrections and changes to Sarah's motion made by Karen C. Cindy M. seconded. Motion passed.

Minutes from Board Meeting were read by Monica. Motion to accept minutes as read by Cindy M. Charlene D. seconded. Motion passed.

**President's Report:** Monica talked about the difficulty with the Nominating Committee to get the slate of officers. The club should work together to grow.

**Vice-President's Report:** N/A

**Secretary's Report:** No current applications for next class. We need to get instructors for the Fall sessions.

**Treasurer's Report:** Charlene read the current balance of the checking account. Motion to accept Treasurer's report as read by Julie G. Karen C. seconded. Motion passed. Charlene read the letter from the State Comptroller.

### **Committees:**

**Tracking Trial Committee:** Koni has been collecting information from members to petition the AKC to waive the match for October. The match committee asked Karen C. and Julie G. to continue to help with the committee. They both agreed. The letter from the AKC that was sent to Julie G. was read. The match information was tabled until the August meeting pending a letter to the AKC.

**Nominating Committee:** Cindy M. presented the slate of officers as follows:

President - Deb Lyons / Vice President - Koni Vahdat / Secretary - Cindy Morrow / Treasurer - Charlene Dunn / Member-at-Large - Monica Becherer.

Monica opened the floor for nominations. There were no nominations from the floor. Monica suggested the Board Member-at-Large position become a liaison between the club and the members-at-large. It was also suggested that the duties of the secretary be split up to a committee.

**Seminar Committee:** Committee talked about using the hospital as a seminar location. Deb is working on the presentation to the hospital vice-president for permission to use the grounds for the seminar and match. Marian made a motion to ask Carol Pernicka for the March 1 - 2, 2008 seminar. Cherita S. seconded. Motion passed.

**Old Business:** Club Roster - Sarah H. will take the club roster and mail it to all members. She will be responsible for keeping track of all changes.

**New Business:** Marian and Sarah expressed their delight in teaching the Spring Classes. The membership thanked them for what they did. Charlene D. will instruct the Fall Sessions with Cindy M., Karen C., and Cherita S., helping. Fall classes are limited to (4) beginners, (8) intermediate, and (4) advanced.

Second reading for Karen Yates and Debbie Ligon. Members voted by secret ballot. Membership was accepted.

Next meeting to be held August 11, 2007 at the AA Credit Union.

Karen C. made motion to adjourn. Julie G. seconded. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned 2:02 pm.

# Debra Lyons and Torheit's Ndy-pendent Means CDX, TD



From Left to Right: Tracklayer Cindy Loffinville, Debra Lyons, Ndy, Judge Susan Eldred, and Judge Jeff Shaver

Three days of hard rain the week of March 18, 2007 left Bush Park flooded for the Houston Obedience Training Dog Club Tracking Test. Judges Susan Eldred and Jeff Shaver were challenged to find (dry!) ground.



As we were driving into Bush Park I could but notice all the water. Ponds where there were not ponds last time we tried for our TD here. That is when I learned how much Ndy didn't like water on his tummy. I was hoping all this water wouldn't continue our luck at tracking tests. The first time we made it into a tracking test it was cancelled due to the worst snowstorm of the century for Tulsa (literally). The second test, Ndy had to swim (so he thought) his track. I was hoping third test would be the charm.

Since I was first to draw, I picked track number three. Track number three was lucky for Cindy and Boomer last time we were here. I was hoping it would be for us too this time. We waited a short time for track to be ready. I downed Ndy a few times so maybe he might not mind the water this time, and it didn't hurt to remind him that down is what you do at the glove either.

Ndy started good. He put his nose down and off we went. His dislike of water was not bothering him this time. On the third leg of the track he chose to really explore the water puddles. I was wondering why they needed to put the track through the deep puddles. The track really didn't go through the deep puddles, but Ndy was just making sure.



He worked hard and steady through the whole track that was 445 yards long (It seemed longer) with three left turns, one open turn, and one right that he took straight to the end where he did a beautiful down at the glove. Ndy is a right turn dog. He doesn't like left turns. This track would not have been a track that Ndy would have picked for himself, but he did it because I asked him to. I want to thank our tracklayer, Cindy Loffinville, who did a great job of laying our track.

I am so very proud to introduce my first Tracking Dog,

**Torheit's Ndy-pendent Means CDX, TD!**

## Gillian Salling and Liesl von Fernheim TD



From Left to Right: Judge Jeff Shaver, Gillian Salling, Liesl, Judge Susan Eldred, and the Tracklayer

### Another Fernheim German Shepherd gets her TD!!!!



I started tracking training with my German Shepherd female, Liesl von Fernheim, at the end of September 2006 when she was 9 months old, which was when I acquired her from her co-owner. I usually start tracking with my own pups when they are only 9 weeks old, which I find much easier because they don't pull as strongly as they do when they are 9 months old! Due to our dry weather conditions last fall and winter, most of our tracking was in dry and dead vegetation, some of it quite sparse. I always feel if a dog can track in extremely dry vegetation where there is not much scent, then they can easily track in wetter conditions where the track scent is stronger, but not necessarily vice versa. The short, dry, sparse grass also tends to pull the nose down deeper to the ground, which I like, because that is required for Schutzhund tracking.

In February 2007, Liesl was ready to be entered into an AKC tracking test, so I entered her in the Texas Tri-City Obedience Club test on February 25<sup>th</sup> in Fort Worth. This would have been conveniently close for me, but she only pulled 1<sup>st</sup> Alternate and all the entrants did show! The conditions there were similar to what she had tracked in all along and I laid her a track there after the TDs had finished and had a friend follow behind her for a distraction. I then entered her in the Houston Obedience Training Dog Club in Houston on March 18<sup>th</sup>. In the meantime, I came down with a bad case of the flu on March 4<sup>th</sup>! I was in bed with a high fever for a week during which time I found out we had got into the Houston test. I was not sure I was going to be able to make that 320 mile trip down there. On top of that, I had heard that they had had a lot of rain in Houston and I knew the George Bush Park tended to flood very badly. I managed to get out twice the week before the test to track Liesl and the last day I got her out I went to track in an area that



I knew had a place that stood in water at the very slightest rain. It had rained 2 days prior to that. I laid the track over that area to see what she would do. She did have difficulties in that area but I let her work it out on her own and she was able to complete the track without my help. That proved to stand her in good stead for Houston!

When I got down to Houston the afternoon before the test I couldn't believe all the water in the park! I laid Liesl a short one turn track in a very soggy area just to familiarize her with the scent conditions there. The next morning we drew the first track! It was in an area close to the pavilion that had been intended to be the alternate track, but they decided to use that as the first track before any of the public wandered on to the area. Part of the area had been underwater just the day before!! I could even see the high water debris line on the track! It was a zigzag shaped 4 turn track of 455 yards and part of it was standing in water, so we had to slosh thru it! The wet ground didn't seem to bother Liesl but she did take a bit longer on the 4<sup>th</sup> turn than on the others. After she made that turn I knew we had it made, but there nothing more exciting than seeing your dog down at an article at the end of a successful track, especially when she has to lie in water!! She completed the track in 10 minutes. I was especially proud because she had never tracked in such waterlogged conditions! I was also excited to see Deb Lyons pass with her German Shepherd!



Congratulations to all successful TD and TDX participants and happy tracking to all!  
Submitted by Mrs. Gillian M. Salling, AKC Tracking Judge #3165

## Charlene Dunn and Charlie Dunn RN, TD

May 6, 2007. The day dawned hot and muggy at John Zinc Ranch in Sand Springs Oklahoma. The Indian Nations Tracking Club was there in force warning all exhibitors to spray 'cause the ticks and chiggers were out (gotta love Oklahoma)! As the draw drew near, the exhibitors lined the building waiting for their turn, as tracks were walked outside. Exhibitors were told 3 tracks out front, 3 tracks around back and 2 tracks up the hill. As each exhibitor drew their lot, the tracks went Border Terrier, GSD, Golden, Border Collie, Rottie, Lab, Border Collie, and finally another Golden. The gallery watched as each dog slowly and methodically made their way down the track. Track 1 - pass, Track 2 - pass, Track 3 - not so lucky and off we went to the back side of the ranch. It is now more windy and getting hotter by the minute. Track 4 - pass, Track 5 - pass, and then it came to Track 6.

It was our turn, the track was 45 minutes old. We harnessed up and visited our tracklayer, Kathy Watson, while we waited for the judges to get across the field. As we walk towards the field (one I knew well enough to know there was no gate as there had been for the other tracks), I'm thinking this should be fun...



From Left to Right: Tracklayer Kathy Watson, Judge Patricia Norris, Charlene Dunn, Charlie, and Judge Linda Baschnagel



Hence the question "How many AKC Tracking judges does it take to get a chocolate Labrador through a fence?"

The answer is 4. Linda went through first with Pat and Kathy standing behind me. I tried to get Charlie through but as soon as his body touched any part of the fence he would jump back. I called Bob Brown up to step on the fence, and Pat stepped on the other part while I walked each and every leg of Charlie's through the fence to Linda who held him so he couldn't back out again. Once we were all inside, I approached the start with Linda and she asked if I had any questions. Nope. As I started towards the flags the line caught on something, I pulled it through and heard "Wait! Its got a tree limb caught." "Well maybe it will slow the dog down." "It might hit her in the head." I hang my head and think, "This isn't a good way to start."

So up to the start we go, I asked Charlie to down and picked up the start article. "Find it" and off we went... Charlie did his usual casting back and forth with the wind. He evened out past the 30 yard flag and we were moving at a good clip. He track looped once and continued straight. I put more pressure on the line, "Are you sure?" and he kept going, he circled a second time and caught the right turn and off we went. "Good boy."



As we approached the tree, the judge in me said, good place for a turn, and so it was. Charlie cast down into the ditch with the wind following the scent, up he came and off to the left we went. As we approached the bushes, he needed to go investigate, so I held my ground, he circled right and away we went again. By now its hot and there is not a lot of room left in the field, he approached the fence and made a quick turn to the left, this leg is not so strong, he circled a lot, getting tired, he kept checking out the flowers but wouldn't commit to walking through them (later I found out they did but there was poison ivy, what a good dog he is knowing I am highly allergic to it), he struggled at the last turn, working hard. I thought about watering him, but worried he wouldn't restart.



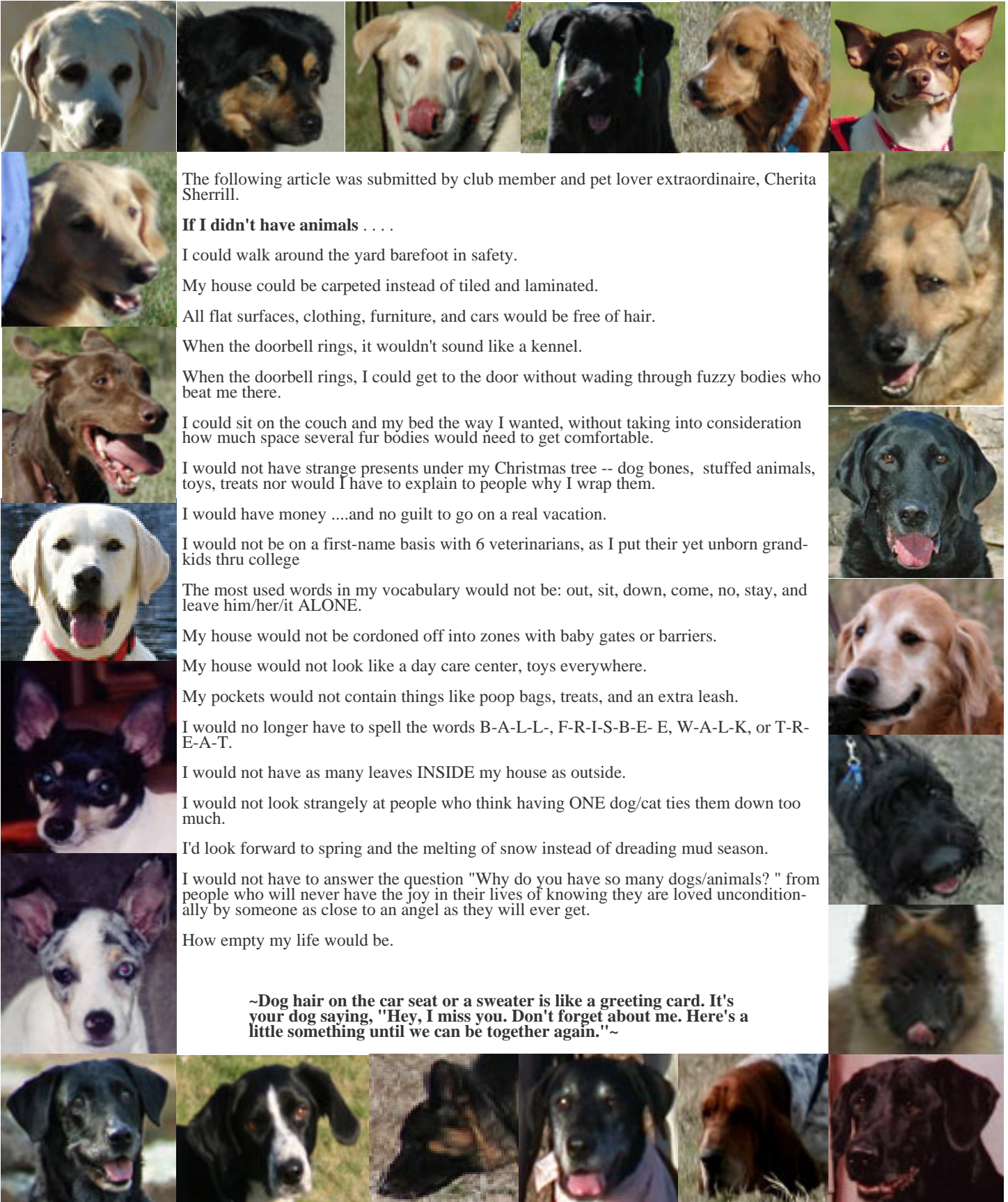
As worry set in I coached "Come on, lets find your glove." That seemed to be enough for him and off he went to the left. He pulled hard to the end, and stopped and dropped his nose at the ground. I asked, "Is that something you need to show me?" As I walked up the line he came back to me, and I asked again "Is this something you need to show me? I think it is." The light seemed to go on in Charlie's hot, tired head, "Oh yeah! I down at these things!" and down he went and up went my hand with the glove!



As we are walking out of the field, hot and tired, I think "Oh No! Another fence!"

Total yards 460, total turns 5, 2 fences and an A.K.A. of Dunn's Good Grief Charlie Brown!

# If I Didn't Have Animals...



The following article was submitted by club member and pet lover extraordinaire, Cherita Sherrill.

## If I didn't have animals . . . .

I could walk around the yard barefoot in safety.

My house could be carpeted instead of tiled and laminated.

All flat surfaces, clothing, furniture, and cars would be free of hair.

When the doorbell rings, it wouldn't sound like a kennel.

When the doorbell rings, I could get to the door without wading through fuzzy bodies who beat me there.

I could sit on the couch and my bed the way I wanted, without taking into consideration how much space several fur bodies would need to get comfortable.

I would not have strange presents under my Christmas tree -- dog bones, stuffed animals, toys, treats nor would I have to explain to people why I wrap them.

I would have money ....and no guilt to go on a real vacation.

I would not be on a first-name basis with 6 veterinarians, as I put their yet unborn grandkids thru college

The most used words in my vocabulary would not be: out, sit, down, come, no, stay, and leave him/her/it ALONE.

My house would not be cordoned off into zones with baby gates or barriers.

My house would not look like a day care center, toys everywhere.

My pockets would not contain things like poop bags, treats, and an extra leash.

I would no longer have to spell the words B-A-L-L-, F-R-I-S-B-E- E, W-A-L-K, or T-R-E-A-T.

I would not have as many leaves INSIDE my house as outside.

I would not look strangely at people who think having ONE dog/cat ties them down too much.

I'd look forward to spring and the melting of snow instead of dreading mud season.

I would not have to answer the question "Why do you have so many dogs/animals?" from people who will never have the joy in their lives of knowing they are loved unconditionally by someone as close to an angel as they will ever get.

How empty my life would be.

**~Dog hair on the car seat or a sweater is like a greeting card. It's your dog saying, "Hey, I miss you. Don't forget about me. Here's a little something until we can be together again."~**





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Website: <http://www.dfwtc.org>

**We are on the Web!**  
<http://www.dfwtc.org>

*DFW Tracking Club was founded in the summer of 2005 by members of the tracking community who wished to offer tests, teach classes, and serve the tracking needs in the DFW area.*

*The mission of the DFW Tracking Club is to provide a need to the tracking community for tracking tests, tracking classes, and tracking education.*

*DFW Tracking Club has instructors who can service all levels of tracking from the novice to the advanced tracker. Our classes are structured to teach dogs and their humans to track for an AKC tracking test.*

*DFW Tracking Club is an AKC recognized club, and a 501( c ) tax exempt organization.*

*For more information about the DFW Tracking Club, check out our yahoo group at [dfwtrackers@yahoo.com](mailto:dfwtrackers@yahoo.com) or email the club secretary at [info@dfwtc.org](mailto:info@dfwtc.org)*

## Foxtail Information - Links & Pictures

This is the time of year when we most often see foxtails. Foxtails can be dangerous and according to the following articles, even deadly to our tracking dogs.

The first tracking seminar I attended, I was told of the horrors of "needle grass", some lodging in dogs feet, legs and even in their noses! This can cause severe infections and trauma for the dog.

Julie's dog, Mike, when rescued, was found to have spear grass too numerous to find and the vet didn't even know if he would be able to remove all of them...so, due to the vast amounts of foxtail and needle grasses found in the fields where we track, here are some web sites that offer good information as well as pictures of the 'dangerous' grasses found in our fields.



Image from vizladogs.com  
 Links from Carie May-Bowers  
 & Pam Foster, GSCA, and  
 DFWTC Member Robyn Elliott

<http://www.sfdog.org/do/foxtails.pdf>

<http://www.vizsladogs.com/CLUBS/nva/nva6.htm>

<http://www.aztecanimalclinic.com/foxtails.htm>

<http://www.placervillevet.com/foxtails.htm>

<http://www.csupomona.edu/~jcclark/dogs/foxtails.html>

## Fall Tracking Classes

It is not too early to submit your application for fall tracking classes!!! As always there are a limited number of slots available - this is especially true for beginner classes. We are still looking for instructors and assistants for these classes.

Fall Classes will begin October 6, 2007

**\*\*\*Remember to check your dog after each tracking outing... spear grass is out in full-force.\*\*\***

**\*\*Also during these dog-days of summer, water your dog often to keep him/her cool.\*\***