



# Tracks



## The Myth of the “Alpha” Dog

Since the 1940s the idea of the family as a pack with a human owner as the top dog has become a cultural cliché. “You must be the alpha,” is often the first training tip dog owners hear. And that, behaviorists believe, has been driving a lot of dogs crazy.

“The basic fallacy is that [pet] dogs form a pack with you,” said Andrew Luescher, DVM, Ph.D., director of the Animal Behavior Clinic at Purdue University. “That’s nonsense. They don’t even do it with each other.” Instead of being a forceful alpha, the owner’s goal should be to become a leader to whom the dog will look for direction. “Dominance and leadership are not the same thing. The former implies authority, domination, command and control. The latter implies initiative and influence others willingly accept,” said Alice Moon-Fanelli, Ph.D., certified applied animal behaviorist and clinical assistant professor at Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine at Tufts University.

The root of the alpha problem is that scientific studies on wolves have been oversimplified and misinterpreted. Many early studies were conducted on captive wolves in which packs were comprised of unrelated animals assembled by scientists. But later studies showed that, in the wild, wolf packs consist of a breeding pair and their offspring, and they live in harmony as family, with the juveniles deferring to the elders.

Nevertheless, the idea of a rigid hierarchy persisted and was applied to dogs, even though they’re separated from wolves by 40,000 to 100,000 years of domestication. Trouble started when media, trainers, and dog owners decided they had to imitate the actions of the alpha wolf, even if the concept had been completely misconstrued. Training methods included the “alpha roll,” pinning, yanking, shocking, choking, even growling and biting. “People were

*(Continued on page 2)*

### PRESIDENT’S REPORT

Hi All

Well fall is almost here. Our tracking club is starting its third year. We are moving along with our plans. Things are doing well– through hot summers, high gas prices, and hurricanes.

I appreciate everyone’s efforts in working through what we need to accomplish in order to reach the goals we have set as a club.

Fall class started the first weekend in September in Webb Park. They are full and rolling along. We have a busy schedule for this fall. The Springer National Tracking Test is November 1 and 2, 2008. Our test is November 29 and 30, 2008. Things are going well for those tests.

For those who are working on getting tracking titles, the fall and winter tests will be here before we know it. So keep your nose to the track, and your hopes to the skies.

Deb Lyons

### In This Issue

The “Alpha” Dog	1
President’s Report	1
Airline Regulations	3
Skunk Remedy	3
Calendars	4
Fall Classes	5
New AKC Club	7
Dog Glossary	8
Seminar Information	9
Meeting Minutes	10
TAC Proposal Meeting	12

attempting to mimic wolf communicative patters, and they weren't doing a very good job of it," said Dr. Moon-Fanelli. The results have been disastrous, sometimes turning happy puppies into snapping hellhounds who commit the ultimate sin—biting the hand that feeds them. The truth is much scientific debate occurs about how wolves relate to modern domestic dogs. For years, scientists believed dogs descended from the North American gray wolf, an animal with rigid social structure. But DNA studies have suggested a different ancestor—the Eurasian wolf—which has more loosely organized packs. Controversy has existed since Darwin's time over whether dogs came from a common ancestor or evolved along different lines—from wolves or small canids similar to today's New Guinea Singing Dog. These animals, as well as wild domestic dogs, have social structures that differ from wolves.

L. David Mech, Ph.D., professor in the department of fisheries, wildlife and conservation biology at the University of Minnesota observed a wild pack of wolves in Canada for more than 13 consecutive summers. He found that the accepted notion, that the alpha pair rules with an iron paw to suppress constant challenges from underlings, was a mistake. "Calling a wolf an alpha is usually no more appropriate than referring to a human parent as an alpha. Any parent is dominant to its young offspring, so 'alpha' adds no information," Dr. Mech wrote in "Alpha Status, Dominance and Division of Labor in Wolf Packs," published in the Canadian Journal of Zoology in 1999. In all his years observing the pack, he didn't see one "dominance contest" between the parents and an upstart pup. He no longer uses the term "alpha." "The point here is not so much the terminology but what the terminology falsely implies, i.e., a rigid, force-based dominance hierarchy," he writes.

Dog behaviorists are divided among those who believe it's time to toss out the idea of dominance and those who believe dominance is a crucial part of the equation when figuring out how to deal with a biting dog. Dr. Luescher is among those who have discarded the view that owner-directed aggression is the result of a dominance struggle. "The most common reason for aggression is that the dog is fearful about its interactions with humans," he said, "and that's because our interactions with dogs are mostly casual and inconsistent." He started questioning the idea biting dogs were striving for dominance when he and colleagues at Atlantic Veterinary College on Prince Edward Island surveyed owners of 3,000 aggressive dogs. He followed up with in-depth case studies of 300 dogs. Many preconceived notions didn't withstand scrutiny, he said.

The Canadian team found that neutered males were actually more of a threat and that aggression started in dogs younger than a year. In videos, the biters exhibited "ambivalent body language between the offensive and the defensive." After biting, many dogs trembled and showed appeasement behavior, coming up to nudge the hand of the

victim. This behavior didn't suggest the dog was engaging in a power play in his human family.

The factors that provoke a dog into biting aren't black and white. Rather, it's a blend of personality traits. Dr. Dodman rates patients according to two 10-point scales, one for fear, another for dominance. Dogs whom he would rank near 10 on the dominance scale are willful, strong-headed and independent. On the other side of the spectrum is the "shrinking violet dog," who would earn a 10 on the fear scale. Extremes on both ends are rare. Most biters fall somewhere in the middle—a three in fear and a six in dominance.

While views differ about the role dominance plays in molding an aggressive dog, experts agree on one thing. The words, "dominance" and "alpha" have spawned damaging practices. The problems aren't confined to the behaviorist's office. Even in puppy classes, trainers have to help their clients distinguish between a stubborn puppy and a scared one.

"When students come to me saying they are worried their dog is an alpha dog and they need to be the alpha, I just cringe," said Teoti Anderson, president of the Association of Pet Dog Trainers and author of *Your Outta Control Puppy*. At the end of one of

her classes, Anderson saw a woman yelling at her Bulldog. The woman told Anderson the puppy was being defiant. But the puppy's body language told a different story. "The dog was petrified," she said, "absolutely terrified."

The experts also agree that yelling, rolling, electric shock and other punishments intended to establish the human as alpha are doomed to fail—in addition to being inhumane. In striving for the ideal of a good leader, owners should have their dog work for the things he wants in a "nothing in life is free" program: i.e., to get a biscuit he has to sit or obey a command. In 90 percent of the cases at Cummings School Leadership Program, owners of biting dogs saw improvement after this type of training. 70 percent considered their biting dogs cured.



"I wish owners would expend more energy on being a good leader, parent, team captain—set the dog up for success by providing guidance and opportunities for appropriate behaviors rather than reacting to unwanted behavior after the fact," said Dr. Moon-Fanelli. "If you do that, you probably will think that dominance doesn't exist because you won't see it."

*(This article appeared in the August, 2005 edition of **Your Dog**, published by Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine at Tufts University, written by Mara Bovsun.)*

### Predictability Helps Establish Leadership in a Human-Canine Family

- ◆ Create a predictable environment and set consistent limits. "Dogs are like children," said Dr. Moon-Fanelli. They must be taught the rules of the house, to have good manners and to have emotional control.
- ◆ Give dogs a task to perform for every reward so they have a sense of control. They're happier when they know what to do to get a reward, rather than having them doled out randomly.
- ◆ Teach them. Many problem dogs have had no training and know no commands.
- ◆ If your dog is biting, see the veterinarian to rule out a physical problem. If he has no physical problem, ask your vet for a referral to an animal behaviorist.

## AIRLINE POLICIES FOR PET TRAVEL AS OF 8/20/2008

CARRIER	Allow small pets in cabin under seat	Allow pets as excess baggage	Fee for baggage	Allow pets as cargo	CARRIER	Allow small pets in cabin under seat	Allow pets as excess baggage	Fee for baggage	Allow pets as cargo
AIRTRAN	YES-\$69 EACH WAY	NO	N/A	NO					
ALASKA	YES-\$100 EACH WAY	YES	\$100 EACH WAY	YES-COST VARIES	MIDWEST AIRLINES	YES-\$100 EACH WAY	YES	\$100 EACH WAY	YES-SOME RESTRICTIONS
AMER AIRLINES	YES-\$100 EACH WAY	YES-SOME RESTRICTIONS	\$150 EACH WAY	YES-COST VARIES	NOR'WES AIRLINES	YES-\$80 EACH WAY	YES	VARIES	YES-COST DEPENDS ON SIZE & DISTANCE
CONT AIRLINES	YES-\$125 EACH WAY	NO	N/A	YES-COST VARIES	SOU'WES AIRLINES	NO	NO	N/A	NO
DELTA AIRLINES	YES-\$150 EACH WAY	YES	\$275 EACH WAY	YES-COST VARIES	SPIRIT	YES-\$85	NO	N/A	NO
FRONT AIRLINES	NO	YES-SUMMER EMBARGO IN SOME PLACES	\$100 FOR SM-MED KENNELS; \$200 FOR LARGE	NO	UNITED AIRLINES	YES-\$125 EACH WAY	YES-EMBARGO JUNE 1—SEPT 30	\$125 FOR SM-MED KENNELS; \$250 FOR LARGE EACH WAY	YES. COST DEPENDS ON SIZE & DISTANCE
HAWAIIAN	YES-RATES VARY	YES	VARIES	YES-COST VARIES	US AIRWAYS	YES-\$100 EACH WAY	YES-CERTAIN FLIGHTS ONLY	CALL FOR INFORMATION	NO—EFFECTIVE 10/01/2005
JET BLUE AIRLINES	YES-\$100 EACH WAY	NO	NO	NO	VIRGIN	NO	NO	N/A	YES-CALL FOR INFO

When making your reservations, you must make reservations for your dog. There are restrictions on the number of animals permitted. Accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. ([www.akc.org/newsletter/yourakc/2008/august/airlines.cfm](http://www.akc.org/newsletter/yourakc/2008/august/airlines.cfm))

### When Dog Meets Skunk:



You will be glad to know that this concoction works better than tomato juice (most things do, actually) Whatever you do, don't bring a freshly skunked pooch into the house! The dog will rub on things and transfer the smell, then the whole house will smell like a skunk. If you must bring him in, wrap him in something washable until you get to the bathtub.

Please use care when washing your dog's face. These ingredients all have acidic properties and can cause painful eye irritation. If your dog's eyes are red and swollen, he may have been sprayed directly in the face. Wash his eyes out with cool water and contact your veterinarian about soothing eye drops available.

### Skunk Smell Remover

**1 quart 3% Hydrogen Peroxide (fresh)**

**1/4 cup Baking Soda**

**2 tbsp Dish Detergent.**

Mix the ingredients in a large bowl, because it will boil up like Vesuvius. Wash the dog with this while it is still foaming, because it is the oxygen which reacts with the thiols (the chemical component in skunk scent) to neutralize the odor. If it sits around, it will lose it's efficacy because the oxygen boils off. For the same reason, it is important to check the date on the bottle of hydrogen peroxide to make sure it is fresh. Avoid getting this mixture into your dog's eyes.

# OCTOBER 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4 Class
5 VST	6	7	8	9	10	11 Class
12 Meeting	13	14	15	16	17	18 Class
19	20	21	22	23	24	25 Class
26 TD	27	28	29	30	31	1

## COMING UP

October 5th— VST—HEB Hospital, Bedford—Freda Burks (fab@airmail.net) (closes 9/07)

October 12th—Regular meeting. 5:00 p.m. at Olive Garden in Grapevine.

October 26th— TD test—Denver, CO—Lynn Kaemmerer (303-794-9246) (closes 1/08)

November 2nd:

TD—Bush Park, Houston—Sandra Shayner (713-775-1319) (closes 10/18)

TDX—Bush Park, Houston— Sandra Shayner (closes 10/15)

TDX—Smithville, MO—Christine Lero (816-525-3074) (closes 10/16)

TD/TDX—Erwin Park, McKinney—Lynn Kaemmerer (303-794-9246) (closes 10/08)

TDX—Denver, CO—Patti Pigeon (303-279-8334) (closes 10/15)

November 9th—TD/TDX—Bush Park, Houston—Sandra Shayner (713-775-1319) (closes 10/29)

November 15th—TDX—Denver, CO—Patti Pigeon (303-279-8334) (closes 10/29)

November 16th—TD/TDX—Smithville, MO—Christine Lero (816-525-3074) (closes 11/06)

November 23rd—VST—Rice Univ, Houston—Donna Thompson (713-854-4124) (closes 11/12)

November 30th—TD—Tarrant County JC, Forth Worth—Tracy Freeling (817-528-1018) (closes 11/20)

# NOVEMBER 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
2 TD/TDX	3	4	5	6	7	8
9 TD/TDX	10	11	12	13	14	15 TDX
16 TD/TDX	17	18	19	20	21	22
23 VST	24	25	26	27 Thanksgiving	28	29
30 TD						

# DECEMBER 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7 TD/ TDX	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28 VST	29	30	31			

## COMING UP

December 7th—TD/TDX—  
Skiatook, OK—Sue Young  
(readtype@hotmail.com)  
(closes 11/18)

December 7th—TD/TDX—  
Smithville, MO—Sally Hamm  
(816-891-0920) (closes 11/27)

December 7th—TD/TDX—  
Bush Park, Houston—  
Cynthia Krohn (713-686-0761)  
(closes 11/27)

December 28th—VST—Rice  
Univ, Houston—Kathleen  
Milford (281-398-2982)  
(closes 12/18)

## FALL CLASSES

The fall training classes started on Saturday, September 6. Because of the large number of people wanting in the class, it was decided to hold classes on both Saturday and Sunday. Charlene Dunn and Deb Lyons are teaching the classes at Webb Park in Arlington. Classes started in September rather than in October in order to give those who were interested in entering tests this fall a chance to get ready. It is hoped that several of the intermediate students will be able to get certified for tests in November and December.



# HOUSEHOLD MEDICATIONS FOR PETS?

The 18th century Venetian adventurer, romancer, and alchemist Giovanni Casanova reportedly said, "In the hands of the wise, poison is medicine. In the hands of a fool, medicine is poison." And in the hands of a pet owner who isn't careful, the wrong kind of medicine can have disastrous consequences.

What's good for the goose is definitely *not* always good for the German shepherd. A medication that works for you may not work for your dog, and what works for your dog may not work for your cat, rabbit, or ferret. "Dogs and cats are not small people. What is safe for people may not be safe for pets," says Dr. Valentina Merola, a veterinarian at the University of Illinois College of Veterinary Medicine in Urbana. "Most human medication has the potential to cause severe problems."

Animals of different species process drugs in widely varying ways. Dogs, for example, are very sensitive to non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) that are common in their humans' medicine cabinets. This class of drugs includes pain medications like *acetylsalicylic acid (aspirin)*, *ibuprofen (Advil and Nuprin)*, *acetaminophen (Tylenol)*, and *naproxen (Aleve)*.

According to pet poisoning guidelines issued by the American Veterinary Medical Association, as little as two tablets of regular strength aspirin or Tylenol can cause significant tissue damage in dogs, and repeated doses significantly increase the risk of death.

Well-meaning owners often assume that these common, over-the-counter drugs are safe for their pets in smaller doses. "It has nothing to do with size; it's the way they metabolize it. With everything, we assume that cats are twice as sensitive," said Jill Richardson, DVM, veterinary poison information specialist at the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals' National Animal Poison Control Center.

The problems aren't limited to human medications—a drug that may be safe and useful for one animal can be deadly for another. Many of the calls to the National Animal Poison Control Center are regarding accidental poisonings from topical flea medications. Products that are designed for dogs often contain a drug called *permethrin*, which has a wide safety range when used on Fido. But just a few drops of the product may cause Fluffy the cat to suffer potentially fatal seizures.

Although the packaging for any such products will explicitly say that they're only for use on the species for which they're intended, owners sometimes mix up medications that are meant for other pets. Or they simply won't read the label, and will (erroneously) assume that a product can be used on any animal.

**Think about what you're doing.** Animals are different from people, and different from each other. If you're not sure [if a medication is safe], call your vet or ask an animal poison control center.



In some cases, pets get themselves into poisoning trouble. Dogs may dig discarded medication out of the trash, or chew up an entire box of cold medicine, contents and all. Cats may lick the sugar coating off tablets of Advil that are left on the side of the sink. Large breeds of dogs are the most frequent mass-consumers of medications. If your pet ingests any human medication, call your veterinarian *immediately*. Your dog or cat may appear normal, but many of the toxic effects cannot be seen externally. Exposures at high enough doses can cause internal bleeding, stomach ulceration, and liver or kidney injury. Signs you will be able to recognize—such as vomiting and behavior changes—may not appear until hours after the exposure, when some damage may already be done.

Before calling your veterinarian, quickly gather the relevant facts, such as the exact name of the product your dog or cat ate, and the active ingredients it contains. How much was ingested is the magic question. Try to estimate this number by thinking how full the bottle was, how many pills it contained when full, and how many are missing.

Also beware of herbal medications, Dr. Richardson warns. Just because something is billed as "natural" doesn't mean it won't have adverse effects on a pet. One particular herbal diet aid has caused numerous accidental poisonings. "It contains *mahuang*, which is like herbal ephedrine, and *guarana*, which is like caffeine. We've had so many horrible cases involving those," said Dr. Richardson.

In most cases, animals have a good chance of survival if their owners seek medical attention immediately. A veterinarian can pump the animal's stomach, administer activated charcoal and perform diuresis, all of which will help minimize the dangerous effects of the drug. The sooner a veterinarian sees a pet, the more likely the case will have a happy ending.

Consult with your veterinarian before administering any medications. If you are concerned your pet has ingested any human medications, call your veterinarian or the ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center at **1-888-4ANI-HELP** immediately. The following chart will prove useful:

<b>PRODUCT</b>	<b>COMMON USAGE</b>	<b>CANINE DOSE</b>	<b>FELINE DOSE</b>
Buffered Aspirin	Pain relief, anti-inflammatory	5 mg per pound every 12 hours	NOT RECOMMENDED
Vitamin B	Used as an appetite stimulant	1/2 to 2 ml subcutaneously every 24 hours	1/2 to 1 ml subcutaneously every 24 hours
Benadryl	Treats allergies, itching, etc.	1/2 mg per pound every 8 hours (maximum dose-2 mg per lb.)	Same as canine dose
Dramamine	Reduces motion sickness	Up to 50 mg every 8 hours	Up to 10 mg every 8 hours
Hydrogen Peroxide 3%	Used to induce vomiting after accidental ingestion of poison	10 ml by mouth every 15 minutes until vomiting occurs	Same as canine dose
Epinephrine 1:1000	Used to treat reactions following medication, insect bites & stings	1/10 to 1/2 ml intramuscular or subcutaneously	1/10 to 2/10 ml intramuscular or subcutaneously
Pepto Bismol	For diarrhea, vomiting and anti-gas	1 tsp per 5 pounds every 6 hours	NOT RECOMMENDED
Di Gel Liquid	Antacid and anti-gas	Up to 4 tbs every 8 hours	Up to 2 tbs every 8 hours
Mineral Oil	Eliminates constipation	Up to 4 tbs daily	Up to 2 tbs daily
Kaopectate	Relieves diarrhea	1 ml per pound every 2 hours	Same as canine dose
Canned Pumpkin	Eliminates constipation	2 to 3 tsp every 8 to 12 hours	1 to 2 tsp every 8 to 12 hours
Robitussin DM	Coughing -Hacking	1 tsp per 20 pounds every 8 to 12 hours	NOT RECOMMENDED
Ibuprofen & Tylenol	DO NOT USE!!!!	DO NOT USE!!!	DO NOT USE!!!

## DOG GLOSSARY

**Leash:** A strap that attaches to your collar, enabling you to lead your owner where you want him or her to go. Make sure that you are waiting patiently with leash in mouth when your owner comes home from work. This immediately makes your owner feel guilty and the walk is lengthened by a good 10 minutes.

**Dog Bed:** Any soft, clean surface, such as a white bedspread, newly upholstered couch or the dry cleaning that was just picked up.



**Drool:** What you do when your owners have food and you don't. To do this properly, sit as close as you can, look sad and let the drool fall to the floor or better yet on their laps.

**Sniff:** A social custom to use when you greet other dogs or those people that sometimes smell like dogs.

**Garbage Can:** A container your neighbors put out weekly to test your ingenuity. Stand on your hind legs and push the lid off with your nose. If you do it right, you are rewarded with food wrappers to shred, beef bones to consume, moldy crusts of bread and sometimes even an old Nike.

**Bicycles:** Two-wheeled exercise machines, invented for dogs to control body fat. To get maximum aerobic benefit, you must hide behind a bush and dash out, bark loudly and run alongside for a few yards. The rider swerves and falls into the bushes, and you prance away.

**Thunder:** A signal the world is coming to an end. Humans remain amazingly calm during thunderstorms, so it is necessary to warn them of the danger by trembling, panting, rolling your eyes wildly and following at their heels.

**Wastebasket:** A dog toy filled with paper, envelopes and old candy wrappers. When you get bored, turn over the basket and strew the papers all over the house. This is particularly fun to do when there are guests for dinner and you prance around with the contents of that very special bathroom wastepaper basket!

**Sofas:** Are to dogs like napkins are to people. After eating it is polite to run up and down the front of the sofa and wipe your whiskers clean. If there are people sitting on the couch just include them as a handy wipe.

**Bath:** A process owners use to clean you, drench the floor, walls and themselves. You can help by shaking vigorously and frequently.

**Love:** A feeling of intense affection, given freely and without restriction, shared by you and your owner. Show it by wagging your tail





# TRACKING SEMINAR

## *DFW Tracking Club Presents Steve Ripley's Making Scents of the Urban Jungle*

**Date: January 31—Feb 1, 2009 Location: Harris Methodist Hospital—Bedford, TX**

**Cost: \$225 Working Team \$125 Audit (includes book and breakfast/lunch both days)**

**For registration form please visit [www.dfwtc.org](http://www.dfwtc.org) and click on Events.**

### About Steve...

My interest in tracking began over 30 years ago when our Golden Retriever, Feather, earned her TD title. My wife had no interest in working on a TDX title so I took over the challenge. On our second try we were successful and that was when I was hooked. A couple of old friends, also judges, mentored me into the judging challenge. I have been judging over 30 years, at all levels of tracking. The biggest honor of my judging career, was being asked to judge the 2007 AKC Tracking Invitational. This was a most memorable and lifetime achievement.

After I was approved to judge VST tests in 1995, I felt the need to learn more about the title that I was judging. With this in mind, I set out to train Zoe to her CT title. I felt I would make a better judge if I had actually experienced the problems that one encounters during the training journey. Zoe successfully completed the training program by passing her VST test on the first try. This at the tender age of 2 years and 6 months old. At that time, she was the youngest dog to earn that title. I am currently training another dog, Archie, for his CT title. As a part of the training process, I decided it was a good time to refresh in my mind the steps that Zoe and I took in our quest for her CT title. As a part of this process, I documented the steps taken and have written them into a booklet. The seminar is based on the information presented in the booklet.

My objective of the seminar is to share with the participant all of the tips, problems, and pitfalls I have encountered over my years of judging and observing the behavior of dogs while tracking. This will make the training experience easier, and more enjoyable on the journey to earning that coveted "CT" title.

### Space is limited to 10 working teams!

A comprehensive 2 day learning adventure based on the booklet, focusing on scent training work in an urban environment with the emphasis on improving the skills and confidence of both dogs and handlers. Topics will be covered through PowerPoint presentations, discussions and demos with CT trained dogs when available. The emphasis of the second day will be working with novice (to VST) dog and handlers so everyone can watch the dogs and handlers learn the lessons covered on the first day.

- Tracking styles
- Article placement
- When to start training
- Tracking scent posture for your dog
- Aging
- Handling distractions while tracking
- Track plotting for training
- Scent in the urban environment
- Excuses
- Handling and its importance
- Training methods and tricks
- Motivation & Conditioning
- When are you ready to enter a test
- What to expect on test day

**Early Bird Special Take \$25 Off Before 12/01/08**

# MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING: AUGUST

## **DFW Tracking Club**

August 10, 2008 Meeting Minutes

1:40 pm (Meeting called to order by Deb)

In Attendance: Deb Lyons, Natasha Decker, Charlene Dunn, Monica Becherer, Sarah Helber, Kim Couch, Ronna Miller, Koni Vahdat, Tracy Freeling, Cindi Todd, Toni Skiles, Nancy Barclay, Rod Barclay, Lucie Hiser, and Paula Gifford.

Charlene read the minutes from 6/14/2008 meeting. Two changes to meeting minutes voiced: 1) add Benita to attendance list for 6/14 meeting and 2) take out the word "possibly" re: Tracy's role in the Springer trial. Motion made by Koni (Tracy seconded) to accept the 6/14/2008 minutes as amended. Motion passed.

President's Report – Deb told those present that Charlene contacted the City of Arlington regarding tracking land and was told about an area that was nice (off Park Row and 360). Land is bordered by Great SW Parkway, an apartment complex, and a Volvo dealership. The land is mowed, cultured and has a "For Sale" sign. Charlene has double-checked with the City of Arlington that the land belongs to the city, but has not had a response. Charlene also asked about permission to use the Arlington ISD school land that this land borders. Oscar, from the City of Arlington, gave permission to use property that borders the school. Parking would have to be outside school property.

Deb mentioned that the other City of Arlington parks, where we could hold classes, are Webb Community Park with 70 acres, so we can hold both class and trial there, and about 200+ acres of undeveloped land at River Legacy. Conditions there have not been checked out yet. Since the land is not landscaped, it might not work for beginner dogs. Deb also stated that Fort Worth Cow Town Trackers (FWCTT) would prefer for us not to use the land at TCC NW campus.

Toni added that she is looking at purchasing 30 acres of land in Farris, TX. She is open to us using this land for class or trials. She spoke to a neighbor who owns adjoining land and who does bird dog training. He's open to providing access to his land for class or trials.

Vice-President's Report – Not present. No report.

Secretary's Report – Not present. No report.

Treasurer's Report – Charlene passed out Income/Expense Statement, Balance Sheet, and Year End Summary for club members to review. Charlene will send Sarah the Year End Summary for the purpose of revising the budget. Charlene read all the statements. Motion to accept the Treasurer's report, as read, was made by Toni (Paula seconded). Motion passed.

## **Committees:**

DFWTC Trial Committee – Tracy asked people to commit to being members of the trial committee or to being tracklayers for the November 29-30 trial. The club needs four club members for the trial committee, with Tracy as the committee chair. The following members volunteered or were volunteered to be on the trial committee: Cindy Morrow, Lucie Hiser, Sarah Helber, and Natasha Decker. The following members volunteered or were volunteered to help as tracklayers: Cindi Todd (Chief tracklayer); Sarah Helber, Natasha Decker, Cindy Morrow, Deb Lyons, and Marian Beck-Edwards. Charlene mentioned that we should reach out to some of our experienced associate members such as Marla Bull, Pam Raymond, and Julie Lessick.

Springer Trial Committee – Deb asked people to commit to being tracklayers for the November 1-2 Springer Club trial. The following members volunteered or were volunteered to be tracklayers: Deb Lyons (Chief tracklayer); Sarah Helber, Charlene Dunn, Natasha Decker, Marian Beck-Edwards (was not present, still need to verify her availability) (tracklayers); and Cindi Todd and Lucie Hiser (Cross-tracklayers).

Seminar Committee – Tracy contacted Steve Ripley. He asked about weather in late February and early March in our area. A discussion about the best weekend to have the seminar ensued. Charlene made a motion to book Steve Ripley for March 7-8, 2009 for the seminar (Nancy seconded). Motion passed. Volunteer workers for the seminar to be discussed during the next club meeting, after Tracy confirms what help Steve will need. The seminar will be advertised after Tracy confirms the dates with Steve.

Budget Committee – The budget committee consists of Deb, Sarah, and Charlene. It's necessary because the IRS needs to

see a budget 2 years forward. Toni volunteered to be on the budget committee. Sarah and Deb want to stay on the budget committee. Charlene, as the treasurer, has to be on the budget committee. The budget committee will coordinate getting together to discuss the budget.

Annual Audit – According to our by-laws, at the annual meeting there needs to be a report of monies spent and received. A handout to this effect was provided by Charlene and passed around for club members to review.

### **Unfinished Business:**

Class – Fall classes will be running on Saturdays and Sundays. Fall class will start on the weekend of September 6/7, skipping the weekend of September 27/28 and November 1/2. Falls classes are starting early because the closing date for our trial is November 12, and the instructors wanted to give students a chance to certify for our test. Sarah will talk to Marian to see if Marian can teach class the weekend of Springer Test (November 1/2), since her pager was iffy out in McKinney.

Nominating Committee – No new nominations from the floor. Slate of officers remains as nominated. Send any changes to the roster to Cindi Todd.

### **New Business:**

AKC Tracking Advisory Committee Recommendations – The club needs to decide how we are going to respond and what we are going to say. A discussion ensued. Tracy made a motion to: 1) Create an on-line survey (Yahoo or Survey Monkey) to determine where club members stand on the various proposed changes (Charlene volunteered to do this) and 2) Have a meeting on August 30 @ HEB Hospital @ 1:30pm to discuss the club's response to AKC. Nancy seconded the motion. Motion passed. Additionally, club members are encouraged to write individual responses to the AKC's Tracking Advisory Committee.

Board of Directors Meeting – The AKC has changed rules to allow video conferencing and teleconferencing options, however this would require changing our by-laws. FYI – No action.

Belgian Tervuren Nationals in 2010 – The Belgian Tervuren Nationals will be held on April 25, 2010 in Pottsboro, TX, which is 80 miles NE of Dallas. They plan on having 4 TDs, 2 TDXs, and 2 VSTs. Sarah and Deb have been approached about the club's availability to help with this trial. They are looking for a chief tracklayer, tracklayers, and flags.

Charlene made a motion to commit to providing the flags for the Tervuren Nationals as long as Deb and Sarah would be responsible for their safe return. The club would request a \$100 donation for the use of the flags. Charlene also motioned to table the question of tracklayers until April 2009. Kim seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Texas A&M Community Outreach (Deb Davis) – Deb requested permission to have a booth and demo on behalf of the club at this event. The board of directors approved her request. Deb Lyons mailed Deb Davis flyers. Charlene will contact Deb to provide her some business cards.

New Members – Second reading for Sherry Creighton. Sherry was unanimously voted in.

Next club meeting scheduled for October 12 @ 5 PM. Location TBD. Charlene made a motion to adjourn, Paula seconded. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned @ 4:10 PM.

## **Minutes of Board Meeting: August 30, 2008**

Meeting was called to order at 12:37pm

Present: Debra Lyons, Koni Vahdat, and Charlene Dunn

Guests: Sarah Helber & Tracy Freeling

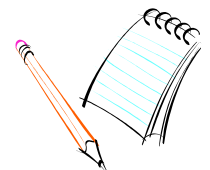
Presidents Report: N/A

Report of Treasurer: We purchased Steve's plane ticket which includes hotel for the seminar.

Report of Secretary: N/A

New Business: Steve Ripley Seminar – The board discussed the seminar flyer and costs associated with the seminar. A motion was made by Koni Vahdat to set the seminar costs at \$225 for working and \$125 for audit, with a \$25 off early bird special to end on December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2008 seconded by Charlene Dunn. Motion passed.

Charlene made a motion to adjourn and Koni seconded. Meeting adjourned at 1:15pm



# Special Called Meeting Minutes: TAC Regulations

DFW Tracking Club  
Aug 30, 2008 Special Meeting Minutes  
Meeting called to order at 1:45pm.

In attendance: Deb Lyons, Ronna Miller, Sarah Helber, Lucie Hiser, Cindi Todd, Charlene Dunn, Paula Gifford, Ron Barclay, Nancy Barclay, Koni Vahdat, Kim Couch, and Tracy Freeling.

Special meeting called to discuss TAC recommendations. Charlene read the statistics of the survey that the club ran on survey monkey. As each recommendation was read a discussion about the recommendation was held.

Chapter 1 Section 2 - Ability for the Tracking Test Chairperson to enter the test. Test secretary still may not enter. The club unanimously **did not agree** with this change. The club believes that the Chairperson should be onsite the day of the test and fully committed to working the test.

**Vote: 0 Agree, 12 Disagree**

Chapter 1 Section 9 - At a national specialty, dogs may be entered in more than one test. The club **agreed** with this change.

**Vote: 11 Agree, 1 Disagree**

Chapter 1 Section 13 - A club may set aside a specified number of tracks for workers. The club may designate the definition of a worker. The club unanimously **did not agree** with this change. The club believes that this could be problematic as worded and needs to be better defined before the club will support this change.

**Vote: 0 Agree, 12 Disagree**

Chapter 1 Section 16 - The club no longer has to provide judges ground maps of the tracking site. The club **agreed** with this change.

**Vote: 8 Agree, 2 Disagree, 2 Abstain**

Chapter 2 Section 14 - The tracking line must be visibly be marked at 10' for VST, for all other tests 20'. The club **did not agree** with this change. The club believes judges should know how far the distance is and a knot is sufficient.

**Vote: 3 Agree, 6 Disagree, 3 Abstain**

Chapter 3 Section 2 - The TDU title can serve as the certification for a TD test. The club **did not agree** with this change. The club feels that these 2 tests are not comparable.

**Vote: 3 Agree, 6 Disagree, 3 Abstain**

Chapter 3 Section 3 - Dogs may now have multiple TD titles. The club **agreed** with this change.

**Vote: 8 Agree, 3 Disagree, 1 Abstain**

Chapter 3 Section 6 - Removal of the 30 yard flag, allowing for a "blind" start and no restart. The club **did not agree** with this change. Members of the club expressed concern over making the entry level harder because the upper level had such a low pass rate, removing a confidence builder for 1<sup>st</sup> time handlers, the burden for 1<sup>st</sup> time tracklayers, and that IF the AKC was trying to make all starts for all tests consistent then it would have to look at the 10yd vs. 30yd walkup to the first flag and the land constraints a change like that would put on clubs. Overall the club stated this was a **very bad** rule change and an unneeded complexity to an already difficult test.

**Vote: 0 Agree, 11 Disagree, 1 Abstain**

Chapter 4 New Section - Introduction of a new type of test, the Tracking Dog Urban Test. The club **agreed** with this change.

**Vote: 4 Agree, 2 Disagree, 4 Abstain**

Chapter 5 Section 1 - Dog who earns TDU is eligible to enter TDX test. The club **did not agree** with this change. The TDU is comparable to the VST not the TDX.

**Vote: 3 Agree, 5 Disagree, 1 Abstain**

Chapter 5 Section 2 - Multiple TDX titles may now be earned. The club **agreed** with this change.

**Vote: 7 Agree, 1 Disagree, 3 Abstain**

Chapter 5 Section 5 - An obstacle is now permitted on the 1st leg of a TDX as long as it is more than 75 yards from the start. The club **did not agree** with this change. The failing point on a TDX is often the 1<sup>st</sup> leg, why increase the dog's chance of failure.

**Vote: 4 Agree, 5 Disagree, 2 Abstain**

Chapter 5 Section 5 - Streams or other water features should not be used if it would be a safety issue for the dog or handler. The club **agreed** with this change and would like to add **ALL** features that would cause a safety issue to dog or handler.

**Vote: 7 Agree, 2 Disagree, 1 Abstain**

Chapter 6 Section 1 - A dog who has earned a TD, TDU, or TDX can enter a VST test. The club **agreed** with this change.

**Vote: 5 Agree, 3 Disagree, 4 Abstain**

Chapter 6 Section 2 - Multiple VST titles may now be earned. The club **agreed** with this change.

**Vote: 8 Agree, 1 Disagree, 1 Abstain**

Chapter 6 Section 4 Bullet 3 - No parallel legs will be within fifty (50) yards of each other unless a contiguous building or structure physically blocks access between the parallel legs. The club **agreed** with this change.

**Vote: 10 Agree, 0 Disagree, 0 Abstain**

Chapter 6 Section 4 Bullet 6 - Turns in a constrained stairway or corridor will not count as one of the required turns. The club **agreed** with this change.

**Vote: 10 Agree, 0 Disagree, 0 Abstain**

Chapter 6 Section 4 Bullet 6 - At least one (1) 90-degree turn, considered the moment-of-truth, non-fringable turn, will be in an area devoid of vegetation and will be plotted to allow at least thirty (30) yards before crossing or returning to a vegetated surface. There will be a minimum of ten (10) yards devoid of vegetation in any other direction. The club **did not agree** with this change. The club believes that this would no longer constitute a moment of truth turn as the direction of the track would be obvious if the 10yd limit on all sides except the direction the track went were implemented.

**Vote: 0 Agree, 10 Disagree, 0 Abstain**

Chapter 6 Section 5 - An article may now be weighted when weather conditions warrant. The club **agreed** with this change.

**Vote: 10 Agree, 0 Disagree, 0 Abstain**

Chapter 6 Section 7 Bullet 4 - A tracklayer may cross an adjacent track in order to exit the field on test day, provided the track being crossed was not laid by the tracklayer. The club **agreed** with this change.

**Vote: 10 Agree, 0 Disagree, 0 Abstain**

Tracking Test and Judges Guidelines Section 2 - Removal of the allowing that VST tests may be judged by 2 provisional judges. The club **agreed** with this change.

**Vote: 9 Agree, 0 Disagree, 2 Abstain**

Tracking Test and Judges Guidelines Section 11 - The removal of the requirement that the judge cannot purposely place an article in a VST that will intentionally fail a dog. The club **did not agree** with this change. The club feels that this needs to stay in the guidelines, as there are some judges who need to be reminded that it is not their purpose to fail the dog.

**Vote: 1 Agree, 10 Disagree, 0 Abstain**

Tracking Test and Judges Guidelines Section 14 – Judges' Qualifications – Prospective judges are required to attend one (1) AKC Tracking Seminar presented by AKC staff and must apprentice judge under two (2) judges. The apprentice assignments must be at two (2) different tests and the judge may not be a member of the apprentice's household or immediate family. The club **agreed** with this change.

**Vote: 10 Agree, 0 Disagree, 0 Abstain**

Tracking Test and Judges Guidelines Section 16 – Judges (including provisional) may handle dogs that are not owned or co-owned by themselves or a family member in all AKC venues except tracking. Extreme care must be taken that doing so does not present an appearance of an unfair advantage. The club **agreed** with this change.

**Vote: 10 Agree, 0 Disagree, 0 Abstain**

Adding of a Glossary of Terms: Moment-of-Truth – a non-

fringable, non-vegetated surface turn Non-fringable – a turn that is not influenced by vegetation Rescent – Allowing the dog to take scent from the start article or other articles found on the track in such a way that it does not indicate the direction of the track or indicates a point on the ground where the dog should begin to search. Restart – A behavior by the exhibitor that would indicate to the dog that he should begin searching a specific area or tracking in a given direction. The club **agreed** with this change.

**Vote: 9 Agree, 0 Disagree, 2 Abstain**

Tracking Willingness Test – This will test the willingness and instinct of a dog to follow a track laid by its owner or any other person. It should be of difficulty approximately the same as the first day of a tracking class. The tester can use any method to induce the dog to track including but not limited to food, toys, and runaways by the handler. Dogs that show willingness to follow the track will be awarded a Tracking Dog Willingness Certificate. The club **did not agree** with this change. The requirements are not well defined; the test is not the same from club to club. This is a bad idea.

**Vote: 0 Agree, 10 Disagree, 0 Abstain**

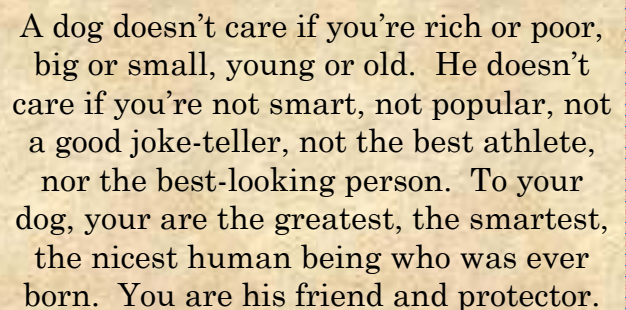
Tracking Dog Started – this test is intended to be a simple tracking test that is within the capabilities of all breeds of dogs and can be achieved with only a modest amount of training. Certificate is issued by the CLUB not the AKC, evaluated by a person who has titled 2 dogs to TD. The club **did not agree** with this change. The requirements are not well defined; the test is not the same from club to club. This is a bad idea.

**Vote: 1 Agree, 10 Disagree, 0 Abstain**

Junior Handler Program – At present there is no incentive for junior handlers to enter and/or participate in tracking events. It is proposed that a program be established to recognize juniors that earn a tracking title or exhibit a dog with a title in a tracking test at any level and pass. These juniors would receive a certificate acknowledging their accomplishment and be eligible to receive an invitation to the National Tracking Invitational. At the invitational the juniors will be able to run tracks prior to the running of the dogs in our National Tracking Invitational. The tracks for the juniors will be Tracking Dog Test tracks. The club **agreed** with this change.

**Vote: 4 Agree, 2 Disagree, 4 Abstain**

Meeting adjourned at 4:30pm.



A dog doesn't care if you're rich or poor,  
big or small, young or old. He doesn't  
care if you're not smart, not popular, not  
a good joke-teller, not the best athlete,  
nor the best-looking person. To your  
dog, you are the greatest, the smartest,  
the nicest human being who was ever  
born. You are his friend and protector.

.....Louis Sabin, Author