



ARE YOU PREPARED FOR AN EMERGENCY?

When we take our dogs out to work we do our best to keep them safe but accidents can and do happen. The best thing we can do is to be prepared with the basic first aid equipment. Being prepared for an emergency will mean less panic when one occurs. The veterinarians at Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine at Tufts University advise dog owners to anticipate emergencies and have the number of the nearest veterinarian. Their advice: "A phone number is the single most important thing to have, especially when you're travelling."

You can buy a pet first-aid kit but you can also easily put your own together and include special items for your particular needs. Beware of human first-aid kits which contain ibuprofen (Advil) or acetaminophen (Tylenol). Both can be dangerous to pets. One 500-milligram acetaminophen tablet can cause severe liver damage in a 10-pound dog according to the ASPCA National Animal Poison Control Center.

Some other items which might be included in a commercial first-aid kit which should only be used with care include:

*Skin staplers: they require expertise beyond the average dog owner's. Best used if an injury occurs in the wilderness far from a veterinarian. If you can get to a veterinarian in a reasonable time, it is better to wrap the injury.

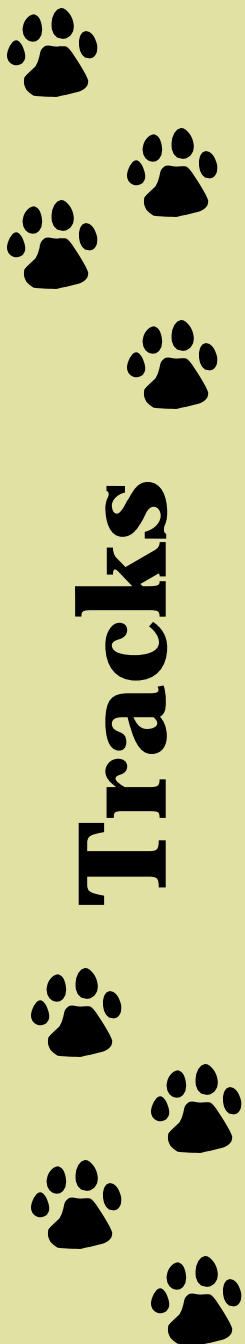
*Tourniquets: don't use one unless you have been trained to do so. If used improperly, it can shut off the blood supply and cause the loss of a limb.

*Splints: don't use it to straighten a broken limb. Wrap it loosely in its current position or you risk shutting off circulation. A paper towel roll or rolled magazines will take the place of a splint.

Following are some recommended items to include in a pet first-aid kit:

- ◆ Gauze
- ◆ Sterile pads
- ◆ Vet wrap (self-clinging elastic wrap)
- ◆ Scissors
- ◆ Styptic pencil or powder to stop nails from bleeding if cut too close
- ◆ Tweezers or forceps
- ◆ Triple antibiotic ointment to inhibit bacterial growth and infection
- ◆ Antiseptic to help prevent infection in minor cuts
- ◆ Hydrocortisone cream to reduce itching caused by insect bites and allergies
- ◆ Diphenhydramine, an antihistamine (check

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with your vet about the appropriate dosage for your dog.)

- ◆ Cold pack to reduce swelling
- ◆ Eye wash to rinse foreign objects or dust out of the eyes
- ◆ Hydrogen peroxide to induce vomiting. If possible, check the label of the poison to see if induction is appropriate; sometimes it can worsen poisoning.
- ◆ Antiseptic wipes to clean your hands or a cut on the dog
- ◆ Alcohol prep pads to clean scissors and tweezers before use. These should not be used directly on a wound
- ◆ Latex gloves
- ◆ First-aid instruction booklet
- ◆ Phone numbers of emergency providers



Some other items to keep in your car which can prove useful in an emergency:

- ◆ A large, heavy blanket—can be used to transport an injured dog or warm a dog in shock
- ◆ A paper towel that's been rubbed over your dog - keep in a sealed plastic bag and renew every few months (this can be used to track your dog if he runs off and becomes lost)
- ◆ Something to muzzle the dog - even the friendliest dog will bite when in pain.
- ◆ Martingale collar with an ID tag for better control
- ◆ Bottled water and bowl

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

Hi ALL

I HOPE EVERYONE IS READY FOR WHAT LOOKS LIKE A LONG HOT SUMMER. BE CAREFUL OUT TRACKING IN THE HEAT.

GOOD NEWS FROM AKC WE HAVE BEEN APPROVED TO HOLD OUR FIRST VST TEST—HA!

WE HAVE A BUSY NEXT SIX MONTHS WITH OUR TD TEST IN NOVEMBER AND THE VST TEST IN JANUARY.

SEE EVERYONE AT THE AUGUST MEETING.

DEB



YOUR DOG AND THE FOURTH OF JULY



The days following the 4th of July are among the busiest for shelters across the United States. Why? Many dogs are left unattended while their humans "celebrate." Frightened by the pyrotechnics, dogs jump or dig under fences, try to gnaw their way out of crates, cross invisible fence barriers, etc., and are often found miles from home.

If you are going out on the 4th, please be sure your dogs are safely at home, inside, and secure. Leave music or TV on for distraction. Better yet, celebrate at home and let your dog's dog friends come too. Just keep them clear (of course) of any fireworks area. Remember that dogs' sensitivity to storms, guns, or fireworks changes as they get older, so be sure you know how your dog reacts. And regardless, all

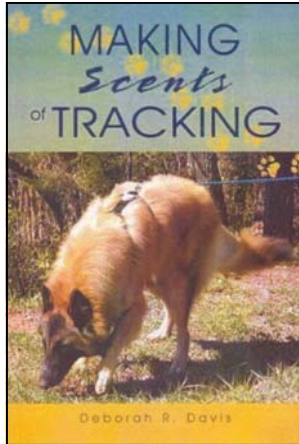
(Continued on page 5)

BOOK REVIEW: *MAKING SCENTS OF TRACKING* by Deb Davis

Deb Davis is a member of the Dallas/Fort Worth Tracking Club and was chosen to be "author of the month" in June on the DogRead web site to discuss the book with their readership. The website address:

<http://pets.groups.yahoo.com/groupDogRead/>

If anyone would like to e-mail Deb with questions, her e-mail is TXTervTracker@aol.com.



Within the pages of *MAKING SCENTS OF TRACKING* are detailed handler training exercises to help you and your dog learn. You will also find many self-tests with which to measure your progress. A well known tracking expert, Ruth Harris, read the manuscript and stated, "I have gone over your book thoroughly and find it well written.

There is nothing in your description of how to start a dog on the track that I could add to. In fact, I think you have supplied details that I find lacking in other 'how to' books. I would recommend your book without exception."

MAKING SCENTS OF TRACKING covers all aspects of training and preparing your dog for an AKC tracking test. A partial list of topics includes: the author's training philosophy; plotting and laying tracks; line handling; reading your dog; planning your training sessions; getting started by imprinting; the tracking process when imprinting is completed; article indication; how handlers fail; training those cantankerous turns; properly starting & ending tracks; aging tracks; working blind tracks; working varied ground cover; how to track with a puppy; basic training equipment needs; how and why to maintain a tracking log book; using flags and other markers; what to expect on your AKC test day; recipes for tracking treats; and on-line tracking resources.

The book is available from Barnes & Noble in paperback for \$23.95. The above synopsis is taken from their website.

ABOUT DEBORAH DAVIS:

Successfully training, handling and showing both dogs and horses her entire adult life, Davis bases her

tracking training methods on two basic premises. First, we don't teach dogs how to track – they are born knowing how to track. As handlers, our job is to teach them to want to track for us and to follow a particular scent trail of our choosing. Second, if the dog is not doing his job the handler must be doing something wrong.

Davis titled both of her current dogs at an AKC tracking test put on by the Indian Nations Tracking Club at John Zinc Ranch north of Tulsa, Oklahoma on Dec 2, 2007. At 8 months of age "Forest" earned his TD while "Yaqui" passed his TDX test at 16 months.

FROM THE BOOK:

In a recent conversation with a close tracking friend of mine, the lack of availability of good books to instruct a handler on how to teach their dog to track was our topic of discussion. My friend commented it was probably because to put down on paper how to start a tracking dog would be like putting in writing how to ride a bike. What a wonderful analogy! We all remember the trials and tribulations of learning to ride a bike. We struggled to find the elusive balance point as a host of variables changed minute by minute. Was the bike on flat ground? Going uphill? Downhill? Was the ground surface grassy, a smooth sidewalk, or rocky parking lot? Every element had to be readjusted for as it was thrown our way. So too with starting a tracking dog. This analogy perfectly illustrates why there are so few absolute or rigid rules in tracking. Thankfully, however, there are some sound basic principles to guide us like training wheels on a bike.

When your dog has started to learn the game, you will work with him and consistently adjust your training schedule to fulfill his needs. But, when you first start the tracking experience, it's important to accomplish some specific goals in the first month of training.

"If I have any beliefs about immortality, it is that certain dogs I have known will go to heaven, and very, very few persons."

James Thurber

April, 2009 DFWTC Meeting Minutes

DFW Tracking Club
April 11, 2009
HEB Hospital Meeting Room

The meeting was called to order at 2:05p.m. by Vice President Koni Vahdat. Members in attendance were Sarah Helber, Ronna Miller, Charlene Dunn, Sherry Creighton, Cindi Todd, Nancy Barclay, Tracy Freeling, Koni Vahdat, and Paula Gifford. One guest, Deanna Kuhn, was present.

Charlene Dunn moved that the minutes for the December meeting be approved as printed in the newsletter with one clarification - that the date for the Fall Tracking Test will always be the weekend following Thanksgiving even though this could be either #47 or #48 in the show calendar. Paula Gifford seconded the motion and it was passed. Nancy Barclay moved that the minutes for the February meeting be approved as printed in the newsletter. The motion was seconded by Ronna Miller and was passed.

President's Report - Not present.

Vice President's Report - No report.

Secretary's Report - Charlene reported for Cindy Morrow who was not present. AKC has notified the Club that we are already eligible to hold TDX and VST tests. We may not need match credits but may only need to submit maps of the site. This information needs to be verified since it is different from what we were previously told.

Cindy is looking into having professional signs made which would indicate: "Seminar"; "Tracking Test"; and "Restrooms".

Cindy also wanted to have the Club discuss guidelines for Class sign-ups.

Treasurer's Report - Charlene passed out an income expense report and a summary balance statement for the members to review.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Seminar Committee: After some discussion, it was decided to not hold a training seminar in 2010.

Fall Tracking Test: The TD Test will be held in November. Deb Lyons will be Secretary/Chairperson. Tracy Freeling will be Chief Tracklayer. Judges are Bob Brown and Charlene Dunn.

Budget: Sarah announced that the Budget Committee will meet before the June meeting and asked Charlene to supply budget information before this meeting. No further report at this time.

OLD BUSINESS:

Club T-Shirts: Status is not known at this time.

Club "Easy-Up": After looking into the cost of repairing the tent cover which was torn last November, it was decided to replace it. Tracy Freeling moved that we purchase a new "Easy-Up". Motion was seconded by Ronna Miller and passed. Tracy and Ronna will look into prices and report at the next meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

New Board Positions: Charlene reported that we need to think about creating two new officers who would serve on the board: 1) A Recording Secretary whose job would be to keep the meeting minutes; and 2) A Training Director whose job would be to co-ordinate the classes. Currently these jobs are the responsibility of the Secretary. After

some discussion, it was decided to create the position of Recording Secretary right away but to table the decision to make Training Director an elected office. Cindi Todd moved that we have the board consider the necessary by-law change to include a Recording Secretary. The motion was seconded by Nancy Barclay and passed.

Nominating Committee: Koni asked for volunteers to serve on the nominating committee for the next year. Paula Gifford, Charlene Dunn, and Cherita Sherrill will make up this committee.

Permanent Records: We should have a designated place where the Club's permanent records would be stored. This includes such things as meeting minutes, test records, AKC notifications, etc. This will be decided at the next meeting.

VST Test: We are considering holding a VST Test in the winter of 2010 - January 9/10 or January 16/17. Tabled until the June meeting.

Membership: Deanna Kuhn was given an application for membership.

The next meeting is scheduled for June 7, 2009 at the HEB Hospital. The meeting was adjourned at 3:11p.m.
Respectfully submitted,
Nancy Barclay, acting recording secretary

(Continued from page 2)

dogs should be safe inside during such festivities. Lots of people do lots of stupid things when you put fireworks in their hands.

Dr. William Fortney, professor of veterinary medicine at Kansas State University, offers these tips for keeping your pet safe through the Fourth of July holiday.

- Keep your pets away from all fireworks.
- If you take your dog for a walk be prepared for surprises and keep your pets on leashes.
- Keep your pets indoors or otherwise secured during fireworks
- If you think your pets might need tranquilizers take them to their veterinarian now. Don't wait until just before the holiday or you may not get an appointment.
- Some pets won't go outside when fireworks are going off. If your pet goes outside to relieve itself, take it out before it gets dark.

During the Fourth of July holiday, some people see a side of their dog they've never seen before. Just as the snap, crackle and pop of fireworks can be heard, Fido or Lady can go from beloved family pet to Tasmanian devil dog. All it takes is the unexpected bang of a firecracker.

"We're talking about two types of fear. There are those animals who are just afraid and may come to you and shake or sit at your feet and whine. Or there are those dogs with extreme fear, or phobias," said Dr. William Fortney, professor of clinical sciences at the Kansas State University College of Veterinary Medicine. "These dogs can exhibit some bizarre, very drastic behaviors associated with that high level of anxiety and fear." Some dogs might crash through screen doors and run off.

If your dog reacts either way to fireworks, there are several steps to take toward solving the problem. But first be sure you don't reinforce their fearful behavior, If your dog is afraid and comes to you and you give it a lot of nurturing, you are reinforcing that behavior, If they come to you and you let them get on your lap or sleep with you or get on the couch, which is the natural thing for people to do, then you might end up encouraging the fearful behavior. Instead of coddling them, try to distract them with a favorite toy.

=====
Kathy Fornes
Puppy Love Dog Training
Brooksville, Florida

AUGUST, 2009

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

EVENTS

SEPTEMBER, 2009

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

EVENTS

September 5-6: AKC Seminar on Tracking Regulations
Southwest Tracking Association (Houston)

Jeff Shaver
jshaver522@yahoo.com

September 6: TD/TDX Elgin, IL—closes 8/20/09

Ingrid Hamburger
trackingsecretary@fvtc.org

September 13: VST Denver, CO—closes 9/03/09

Karri Britton
rahwynd@comcast.net

September 20: TDX Naperville, IL—closes 9/10/09

Kristine Carlsson
misscutter@aol.com

September 27: VST Elgin, IL—closes 9/17/09

Mary Reich 920-563-7080

September 27: TDX Elgin, IL—closes 9/15/09

Amber Perri 847-421-1691

September 27: VST DeKalb, IL—closes 9/07/09

Donna Eichman
desertlab21@yao.com

OCTOBER, 2009

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

October 4: TDX Springfield,
MO—close 9/16/09
Anna Freeman
aandyfreeman@sbcglobal.net

October 4: TD/TDX Elgin, IL
- closes 9/17/09
Larry Bzdon 773-505-5431

October 10: TD/TDX Little-
ton, CO—closes 9/29/09
Cynthia Hutt 303-655-8476

October 18: TD Elgin, IL—
closes 10/08/09
Carol Dinelli
wayneredwood@att.net

ACTIVE MEMBERS OF THE DALLAS/FORT WORTH TRACKING CLUB

(The Secretary shall keep a record of all activities of regular members, taken from club meeting minutes, classes, and events. The activities of members will be published in the 1st quarter newsletter, if regular membership is not met, the member will automatically be made an associate member. New members will be given a full year of membership to fulfill regular member status, based on the club's fiscal calendar year.)

NANCY BARCLAY

ROD BARCLAY

MONICA BECHERER

MARIAN BECK-EDWARDS

KIM COUCH

SHERRY CREIGHTON

NATASHA DECKER

CHARLENE DUNN

TRACY FREELING

PAULA GIFFORD

ANNA GUSTAFSSON

SARAH HELBER

DEB LYONS

RONNA MILLER

CINDY MORROW

CHERITA SHERRILL

CINDI TODD

KONI VAHDAT

BENITA ZAPATA



June, 2009 DFWTC Meeting Minutes

DFW Tracking Club
June 07, 2009
HEB Hospital Meeting Room

The meeting was called to order at 1:40 p.m. by President Deb Lyons. Members in attendance were Sarah Helber, Ronna Miller, Charlene Dunn, Benita Zapata, Cindi Todd, Nancy Barclay, Rod Barclay, Tracy Freeling, Deb Lyons, Cherita Sherrill, Monica Becherer, Natasha Decker, Marian Beck-Edwards, and Paula Gifford.

Charlene Dunn read the minutes of the April meeting. Some corrections were noted, and a motion to accept the minutes as amended was made by Marian Beck-Edwards and seconded by Monica Becherer. The motion passed.

President's Report – Too early to talk about fall test.

Vice President's Report – Not present.

Secretary's Report - Not present.

Treasurer's Report - Charlene Dunn passed out a summary balance statement only for the members to review since we did not have expenses since the last meeting. Charlene Dunn noted that we have one outstanding check, which will be cashed as soon as it makes it to the person it is for.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Fall Tracking Test: No report.

Budget: Sarah Helber announced that the Budget Committee met and will have a budget prepared for membership to view by the annual meeting.

Nominating: Cherita Sherrill reported that the committee met and discussed the new board position and the request from old board members to be replaced. The committee puts forth the following slate of officers:

President: Deb Lyons

Vice President: Monica Becherer

Recording Secretary: Cindi Todd

Corresponding Secretary: Cindy Morrow

Treasurer: Charlene Dunn

Board Member at Large: Cherita Sherrill

Motion to accept the slate of officers as presented was made by Tracy Freeling, seconded by Marian Beck-Edwards. Motion passed.

OLD BUSINESS:

Bylaw changes: The bylaws were emailed to all members before the meeting to review. A discussion was had about the new positions being created by splitting the Secretary position. Natasha Decker made a motion to accept the bylaw changes as presented by the Board, Cindi Todd seconded. Motion passed. Cindy Morrow will send the AKC a copy of the new bylaws as soon as possible.

Club T-Shirts: Charlene Dunn reported that she has the logo/back design up on café press. A sample shirt has been ordered. If the shirt is acceptable, then the t-shirt will be turned on for purchase by club members. A \$5off coupon is available. The cost for a single shirt was a little over \$25. Charlene Dunn will bring the shirt to the next meeting.

Club "Easy-Up": A replacement top will be ordered online. Charlene Dunn has to contact the company to see if they will accept our tax exempt number.

Folding Table: A folding table has yet to be purchased. As we are in no hurry, we can shop around to find the best deal.

Place for Permanent Records: Tabled until August meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

Class Instructors: The instructors for the following sessions will be:

Fall 2009: Tracy Freeling, with Charlene Dunn assisting.

Winter 2010: Deb Lyons, with Cindi Todd assisting.

Spring 2010: Charlene Dunn, assistant to be determined.

Tracy Freeling and Charlene Dunn will start fall classes in September. It will be open to 6 beginners, 8 intermediate, and any advanced students up to 6. Applications will be accepted starting 2 months from the start date of class.

VST Test: The January 16-17th date was put forth for a VST Test in the winter of 2010, judges will be John and Darlene Barnard. This is week 2 on the AKC corresponding calendar and nothing shows on this week at this time. A motion was made to have the test on the January 17, 2010 by Rod Barclay and seconded by Ronna Miller. Motion passed.

Nancy Barclay volunteered to be the Test Chairperson/Secretary. She will mail the application and contact the Barnards ASAP.

A Motion was made to charge \$100/per entry for the VST test by Marian Beck-Edwards, seconded by Monica Becherer. Motion passed.

Terv National: The club had tabled until April 2009, the idea of supplying the equipment and tracklayers for the Terv National. It was not addressed at the April meeting. Sarah Helber said the test will be held April 24/25th 2010 in Pottsboro, TX at Tanglewood resort. The test will be full TD/TDX and VST. All 3 will be plotted on Saturday, with the TD/TDXs running in the AM on Sunday and the VST running in the evening on Sunday. They will need tracklayers and chief tracklayer for all tests. A Motion was made by Sarah Helber and seconded by Marian Beck-Edwards to provide equipment and tracklayers for the test, in return for a \$100 donation to the club and the Terv club supplying some double occupancy rooms to the tracklayers.

The next meeting is scheduled for **August 9, 2009** 1:30 pm at the HEB Hospital. A motion to adjourn was made by Charlene Dunn and seconded by Benita Zapata. The meeting was adjourned at 2:45p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Charlene Dunn for Cindy Morrow, Club Secretary

May Board Meeting Minutes

DFW Tracking Club

May 17, 2009 Board Meeting Minutes

Meeting called to order at 1:45pm.

In Attendance: Monica Becherer, Charlene Dunn, Deb Lyons, Cindy Morrow and Koni Vahdat.

Board Meeting Minutes were read from the Board Meeting on March 7, 2009. Charlene made a motion to accept the minutes. Koni seconded. Motion passed.

President's Report: Fall test has been approved by AKC.

Vice – President Report: None

Secretary's Report: Paperwork received from AKC regarding the March 7 & 8, 2009 Tracking Test and paperwork received from AKC regarding the November 28 & 29, 2009 Tracking Test.

Treasurer's Report: Charlene gave the current income/expense report.

OLD BUSINESS:

A folding table hasn't been purchased as of yet due to the fact that Sam's doesn't currently carry the size required. As there is no hurry for this, we will continue to look.

A tent top was found online for \$60 but Charlene will give the torn one to Deb to attempt to repair, so we have a backup. Charlene will check to see if the online site will sell the top to us tax-exempt.

T-Shirts: Cindy will check with person in Duncan, Oklahoma to see cost of digitizing the logo on shirts.

Signs: Charlene is still working with CafePress on the signs.

NEW BUSINESS:

The club decided at the last meeting, that the BOD should look into splitting the Secretary duties and creating a Recording Secretary position. Since the club follows the AKC bylaws, we looked there first; however the AKC does not keep a separate recording secretary and corresponding secretary position. The Board decided to go with Robert's Rules definition. The Board made changes to the bylaws to be presented at the next club. The changes include creating Recording Secretary and Corresponding Secretary positions. The Corresponding Secretary will have charge of the general correspondence, notify members of meetings, notify new members of their election to membership, notify officers and directors of their election to office. The Recording Secretary shall keep a record of all meetings of the club and of the board and of all matters of which a record shall be ordered by the club; keep a roll of the members of the club with their addresses, and carry out such other duties as are prescribed in these bylaws except those specifically assigned to others.

A discussion of Training Director position was had and tabled until the next Board Meeting.

Koni made motion to adjourn and Monica seconded at 3:32pm. Meeting adjourned at 3:32p

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@yahoogroups.com or email the club secretary at info@dfwtc.org

BECOMING A TRACKING JUDGE

The American Kennel Club has laid out very specific and detailed requirements for anyone aspiring to become a tracking judge. Here, taken from their website is what you must do:

TO QUALIFY AS AN APPLICANT FOR TD OR TDX JUDGING – YOU MUST HAVE:

1. Personally owned, trained and handled two (2) dogs that have been awarded an AKC Tracking Dog title (TD); (if applying for Tracking Dog)
OR
2. Personally owned, trained and handled a dog that has been awarded an AKC Tracking Dog Excellent Title (TDX) and title at least one other dog to a Tracking Dog (TD) title; (if applying for Tracking Dog Excellent)
3. Been active in the sport a minimum of six (6) consecutive years;
4. Observed tracking judges in planning and plotting tracks by serving as a tracklayer ten (10) times at AKC member or licensed tracking tests. (Each event will only count as one track-laying requirement.) Submit completed charts of two (2) tracks where you served as a tracklayer. (Serving as a tracklayer a minimum of five (5) times may be accepted, depending on other tracking experience such as a combination of two or more of the following: Tracking Test Chairperson, Chief Tracklayer and Tracking Test Secretary .) In lieu of track laying requirements, one (1) apprenticeship will be accepted for two (2) of track laying requirements for up to six (6) of the ten (10) tracks required;
5. Actively participated as a trainer or an assistant trainer in a dog training club or similar organization, specifically as a trainer or assistant trainer of the Tracking Dog or Tracking Dog Excellent class, depending on class applying for;
6. Attended an AKC tracking seminar within the last three (3) years.

FIRST YOU MUST APPLY TO BECOME A PROVISIONAL JUDGE:

Forward completed application, questionnaire and Part I (open book test consisting of two questions) to the Companion Events Department to begin the approval process. In addition, submit charts for at least two (2) tracks where you served as a tracklayer. After meeting all minimum requirements and receiving a "pass" on the Part I test, the applicant's name will be published on the Secretary's Page of the first available issue of the GAZETTE as an Tracking Judging Applicant.



CLUB HOSPITALITY IS A PLUS WHEN JUDGING A TEST



TRACKING JUDGES MUST BE PREPARED FOR ALL WEATHER

PROVISIONAL APPROVAL:

All applicants are required to pass a written test consisting of multiple-choice questions, followed by a personal interview with one of the Tracking Field Representatives. The Companion Events Department will schedule a mutually convenient site where the test and interview may be held with the applicant and representative.

Following this review, applicants will receive written notification of the Committee's action. If approved, the applicant's name will be published on the Secretary's Page of the first available issue of the GAZETTE as a Provisional Tracking Dog, Tracking Dog Excellent or Variable Surface Tracking Dog judge. The judge may then accept judging assignments for the class approved.

As a provisional Tracking Dog or Tracking Dog Excellent judge, the judge must judge a minimum of five (5) tests with at least three (3) different judges, only one of which may be a spouse. And a satisfactory observation judging the provisional level must be completed within one year prior to the request for regular status.

TO OBTAIN FULL APPROVAL:

Upon completion of the assignments and satisfactory observation, the provisional judge will be reviewed by the Companion Events Department. Once approval is granted the judge's name will be published on the Secretary's Page of the first available issue of the GAZETTE as Provisional Tracking Judging Completed.

TO APPLY FOR AN ADDITIONAL CLASS:

The regular judge must judge a minimum of three (3) additional tests and have a satisfactory observation within one year prior to the request for next level by a Tracking Field Rep. in addition to the five (5) judged to obtain provisional

status. If meeting these requirements, an application for the next class may be submitted and these procedures followed:

PROCEDURES OVERVIEW

1. Complete requirements for TD
2. Send in applications and Part I Test
3. Name published as applicant
4. Take written test and interview with Field Rep
5. Name published as provisional judge
6. Judge a minimum of five (5) tests as a provisional judge, observed one (1) time by a Field Rep
7. Request regular status
8. Judge a minimum of three (3) tests, observed one (1) time by a Field Rep
9. Complete requirements for Tracking Dog Excellent
10. Follow procedures 2 through 7

REQUIREMENTS TO APPLY FOR VARIABLE SURFACE TRACKING

1. Must be an approved TDX judge or an approved TD judge on regular status who has owned, trained and handled a dog that has been awarded a VST title;

2. Serve as a tracklayer three (3) times at VST test;
3. Attended at least two (2) AKC Variable Surface Tracking workshops
4. Judged at least two (2) sanctioned VST matches. Apprentice at two (2) licensed VST tests may be substituted for the match requirements. Apprentice judges must attend both days of plotting and the day of the event and submit their copies of the plotted tracks and a copy of the apprentice document to receive credit.

PROVISIONAL APPROVAL FOR VST:

1. Complete overview steps 2 through 5

REGULAR APPROVAL FOR VST:

1. Judge at least 3 VST tests as a provisional judge and observed one (1) time by an AKC Tracking Field Representative within one year prior to the request for regular status

Upon completion of the assignments and satisfactory observation, the provisional judge should contact the Companion Events Department.

RABIES CASES ON THE DECLINE

Near-universal vaccination of pet dogs and a growing program of vaccinating wildlife are credited with a decline in rabies in the United States, according to the *Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association*.

Rabies cases reported to the federal Centers for Disease Control and prevention numbered 6,836 in animals and only one case in a human in 2005, the most recent year with fully tabulated statistics. Compared to the previous year, 2005 saw a 4.3 percent decrease in rabid cats and a 19.2 percent decrease in dogs. Twenty-eight states and New York City had no rabid dogs in 2005. Texas (with eight cases) and South Carolina (with seven) reported the largest number of rabies cases in dogs.

Among wild animals, the species most likely to be infected with rabies that year was the raccoon (39.5 percent of all animal cases), followed by skunks (23.4 percent), bats (21.9), foxes (5.9) and other species. In Texas, all the rabies cases in dogs were traced to skunk bites.

AKC TO RECOGNIZE MIXED BREEDS

After 125 years as the nation's premier advocate for dogs, the AKC will implement a program for mixed breeds. As of October 1, 2009 owners can begin enrolling their pets and receive an AKC ID number. Then beginning April 1, 2010 enrolled dogs will be eligible to compete in mixed breed classes at stand-alone AKC Agility, Obedience and Rally events. (Stand-alone is an event not in conjunction with a conformation event.) Soon after they will have access to benefits such as AKC Companion Animal Recover Lost and Found service, and free AKC Canine Good Citizen certificates.

The third phase will offer a dedicated Web site where dog owners can interact via an online community with discussion forums and access dog care video downloads, advice from experts and the most up-to-date news on canine health and welfare. The site will be continually enhanced with new features and benefits in order to respond to the changing needs of pet owners.

THE MICROCHIP MESS: When a stray dog with an identification microchip under its skin is found, there's a pretty good chance—but not 100% certainty—that the animal shelter or veterinary clinic will have the right scanner to read the microchip. Until recently about 98% of microchips in American dogs and cats operated at one frequency (125kHz). But a growing number respond to the frequency used in most countries (ISO-endorsed 134.2kHz). So the microchips now being introduced by the Bayer company, the AKC and the Banfield chain of clinics cannot be read by 80% of the scanners in use in the U.S. American microchip companies vigorously defend their technology patents and won't make scanners that read both frequencies. Meanwhile the American Animal Hospital Association, The ASPCA and the AVMA want the American microchip industry to adopt the ISO standard. What a mess!