



Is Your Dog Smarter Than a Two-Year Old?

By Doug Gross
CNN

Your dog may not actually be smarter than somebody's honor student -- popular bumper stickers aside. But your canine companion might well be smarter than their toddler, according to a growing body of research on how dogs think.

Using adapted tests designed for human children, psychologists have learned that average dogs can count, reason and recognize words and gestures on par with a human 2-year-old.

"They may not be Einsteins, but are sure closer to humans than we thought," said Stanley Coren, a professor emeritus at the University of British Columbia and leading researcher on dog behavior.

Coren planned to present his research Saturday at the American Psychological Association's annual convention in Toronto, Canada.

He said the average dog can understand about 165 words, including signs, signals and gestures. They can also count to about 5, he said.

"I mean, we're not going to make them an accountant or anything," Coren said in an interview with CNN Radio.

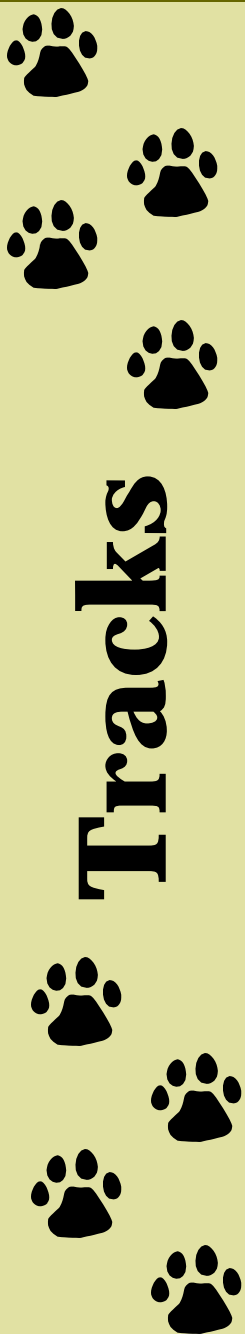
The smartest dogs, [he calls them the "super breeds,"] are on par with a 2½-year-old, recognizing up to 250 words. And, no, not all breeds are created equally.

For his book "**THE INTELLIGENCE OF DOGS**," Coren asked more than 200 dog-obedience judges to rank 110 breeds based on their intelligence. Border collies, poodles, retrievers, German shepherds and Doberman pinschers were among the dogs at the head of the class. The intellectual runts of the litter? The borzoi, chow chow, bulldog, basenji and -- finishing dead last -- the Afghan hound.

(Continued on page 2)

DFW TRACKING CLUB

Tracks



WHO IS YOUR FRIEND?

I had many "friends" in my lifetime—
Some who would borrow my very last dime;
I went through life, earned what I spent,
Paid what I owed, lost what I lent.
My partner in business ran off with my wife,
Then stole my child and ruined my life;
The big bank failed where I kept my dough,
My house burned down, I had no place to go.
They all quit me cold when I could not lend,
So I bought me a dog - *now I have a friend.*

Anonymous

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The dividing line, Coren said, tends to be the age of the breed. More recent breeds, like the collies and retrievers, were bred to do what humans want them to do, making them seem "smarter". "We've been wiring into dogs the ability to communicate with us," said Coren, who has written several books about how dogs think. "You might say that we've been manipulating their intelligence."

Meanwhile, breeds like hounds naturally did what humans wanted right from the beginning -- i.e. chase tasty animals -- and didn't need to be fine-tuned, he said. "They did the work all by themselves," Coren said. "They didn't have to cooperate with the human being. All the human had to do was get there before the dogs ate it all."

Included in the number of "words" dogs are believed to know are hand gestures, like pointing, and nonverbal sounds, like the whistles used to direct sheep dogs and retrievers.

The ability to count is tested in drills such as one in which treats are dropped, one at a time, behind a screen. When the researcher either sneaks away one of the treats or stealthily adds an extra before raising the screen, the dog will wait longer -- appearing to puzzle over the bad math -- before eating the treats. That's the same way toddlers respond when faced with a similar switch, said Coren.

Aubrey Fine, a psychologist and faculty member at California State Polytechnic University, said research like Coren's could help dog owners better relate to their animals. "Too often, many people look at dogs as four-legged people," said Fine, who specializes in the use of dogs in treating patients with developmental disorders and other mental-health conditions. "We need to recognize what dogs cue in to. Once you understand better how to interact, it causes a better coexistence with your pet companion."

Coren said the findings on dog intelligence showed they have more sense than some scientists may have thought, but that some in the general public may be surprised for different reasons that span a wide range of thought.

"There are some people who think that dogs are just little human beings running around in fur coats and there are other people who sort of think that they're unfeeling biological mechanisms," he said. "The truth of the matter is really that dogs are neither extreme."

"THE LIST"

Psychologist Stanley Coren asked dog-obedience judges to rank 110 dog breeds from most to least intelligent.

TOP TWELVE

1. Border collies
2. Poodles
3. German shepherds
4. Golden retrievers
5. Doberman pinchers
6. Shetland Sheepdog
7. Labrador Retriever
8. Papillon
9. Rottweiler
10. Australian Sheepdog
11. Pembroke Welsh Corgi
12. Miniature Schnauzer

BOTTOM FIVE

106. Borzoi
107. Chow chow
108. Bulldog
109. Basenji
110. Afghan hound

BOOK REVIEW:

***THE INTELLIGENCE OF DOGS: A GUIDE TO THE THOUGHTS, EMOTIONS, AND INNER LIVES OF OUR CANINE COMPANIONS* BY STANLEY COREN**

Stanley Coren's book has received a lot of media attention as seen in the receding article and is frequently quoted. What really draws attention is "The List". As one reviewer points out, "The list that ranks dogs by intelligence is based on the ease of training, (the number of repetitions required of an action before the dog learned it) not overall intelligence. Dogs of all breeds can be very smart and within any breed there are ranges of intelligences.. [Some breeds were] bred to work WITH man and to OBEY his commands. Some breeds, like the Terriers and the northern breeds, were bred to think for themselves. Does this mean they are not intelligent? Hardly. This is a great book for anyone who has dogs and wants to understand them

better."

Other reviews listed on the Amazon.com site for this book range from "One of the best books I've read; educational on canine object, narrative, and most of all it's truly entertaining to read. There is much useful information on the dogs throughout this book." to "This is an absolutely awful book. It trades in on common misconceptions with dogs, and then goes on to make generalizations about breeds that have no business circulating."

WHO IS STANLEY COREN? Coren was born in Philadelphia,



Pennsylvania in 1942 and attended undergraduate classes at the University of Pennsylvania before earning his doctorate at Stanford University. He went on to teach in The Graduate Faculty of The New School for Social Research in New York, New York before moving to the University of British Columbia in 1973, where he was a psychology professor and the Director of the Human Neuropsychology and Perception Laboratory until 2007.

Later in his career, Coren shifted to the study of canine behavior and the relationship that people have with their dogs. His book *"The Intelligence of Dogs"* is based on a survey sent to all of the dog obedience judges in the United States and Canada, and resulted in the ranking of 110 dog breeds by intelligence. This ranking caused a rather large media stir. His book *"Why we love the dogs we do"* looks at the personality of people and how the owner's personality predicts their relationship with various dog breeds. This book proved to be very popular and Coren's personality test is now used by some dog shelters to determine whether prospective owners are suitable for a particular breed of dog. Similarly, his book *"Why does my dog act that way?"* uses data from approximately a thousand dogs to determine features of the personality of various dog breeds. However other books that he has written on dog behavior have provided less formal data presentation and in these his creative contribution is based on the organization and interpretation of the research of others, as is the case in *"How to speak dog"* These books have also been well accepted and have been proven to be very popular. Overall, it is probably true that for scientific audiences Coren is best known for his neuropsychological contributions while for the general public he is best known for his writing and research concerning dogs, dog behavior, and the relationship between dogs and people.

ABOUT THE BOOK:

If you've ever wondered what is really going on inside your dog's head, here is your chance to find out. In this revised and updated version of this perennially popular book, psychologist and prizewinning trainer Stanley Coren provides a startling view of the intelligence of our oldest and closest animal companions.

Do dogs really think? Are they conscious in the same way humans are? What is the nature of canine memory? Can dogs communicate with us — and, if so, how can we un-

derstand them? Do they have feelings such as guilt, loyalty, and jealousy? Do they experience joy and sorrow?

Drawing on scientific research that has stood the test of the past decade, interviews with top breeders and trainers, and his own personal observations as a lifelong dog lover, Stanley Coren speculates on these and many other fascinating questions about man's best friend. He offers practical tips on how to evaluate your dog's body language and understand the sophisticated "language" of a dog's bark, and how to tailor a training program to suit your dog's special needs. Here, too, are the famous, controversial lists and rankings of more than 100 breeds for obedience and working intelligence, as well as for specialized tasks such as hunting, home security, and companionship.

In the preface to the revised edition, Coren writes:

When the first edition of this book came out in 1994, I was trying to address a problem that most of the books that were being published about dogs at the time did not. There were only veterinary guides, obedience-training books, and breed books that were not concerned about how dogs think. These books had other purposes and thus did not try to describe dogs' intelligence or mental capacity. It was my hope that *The Intelligence of Dogs* would help to fill that gap in the literature by giving readers a picture of how a dog's mind works."

Since *The Intelligence of Dogs* was first published, a lot of new research has been completed, and it has helped us to better understand the behavior and origins of our dogs. Included in this revision is new material about the wild ancestors of dogs, how dogs came to be domesticated, their communication, thinking, and problem-solving abilities, and their personalities. I have even included some new techniques for expanding your dog's mental capacity — in effect, how to make your dog smarter. Finally, the ranking of working and obedience intelligence has been expanded, and now includes 140 dog breeds.

"The dog has seldom been successful in pulling man up to its level of sagacity, but man has frequently dragged the dog down to his."

.....James Thurber

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.

What is the TRACKING DOG URBAN (TDU)??

At present, the American Kennel Club offers three different tracking tests, varying in difficulty and venue. The Tracking Dog (TD) title is the most basic test and is the foundation for the two other titles - the Tracking Dog Excellent (TDX) and the Variable Surface Tracker (VST) titles. A dog, which passes all three tests, earns the title of Champion Tracker (CT). All tracking events are pass/fail. The fundamental features of a **TD test** are the dog's ability to follow a track laid by a person under a variety of conditions on moderate terrain and find an article dropped by that person. A dog must possess the TD title before being allowed to exhibit in either the Tracking Dog Excellent or the Variable Surface Tracking tests

The primary feature of a **Tracking Dog Excellent (TDX)** test is to show unquestionably that the dog has the ability to discriminate scent and possesses the stamina, perseverance and courage to do so under a wide variety of conditions. Some of these conditions include obstacles, such as woods, streams, or fences, and the track must be crossed at two widely separated points by two people other than the primary tracklayer. The dog must actively work throughout these challenging conditions. The dog/handler team, which passes this extremely difficult test, has truly earned the title Tracking Dog Excellent.

The **Variable Surface Tracking** test is a test of credibility, verifying the dog's ability to recognize and follow human scent while adapting to changing scenting conditions. While the TD and TDX tests are conducted in fields or forest preserves, the VST test is an **urban tracking level**. Tests are held at locations such as business and corporate parks, community or state colleges and other various urban venues. The dog must follow the scent of his tracklayer over differing and sometimes widely variable surfaces, for example concrete, asphalt, and gravel and there must be at least three of these surfaces in each test track. One third to one half of the track must be devoid of vegetation.

The Tracking Advisory Committee elected *not* to introduce any new titles in their recommendations which were approved in August of this year. However, under consideration is the **Tracking Dog Urban** title. AKC currently would like for clubs to try this event within their membership. After such a trial the club would need to report back to AKC with ideas, suggestions and overall feedback. This test period (with input back to the AKC) should be completed by December 1, 2009.

The TDU is a type of **entry level tracking** test with three basic objectives:

*To provide an avenue to encourage newcomers or people

restricted to urban area life styles into the sport of tracking.

*To provide clubs with an alternative style of test to compensate for the loss of viable tracking fields in those areas.

*To test the dog's ability to follow a track laid by a person under a variety of conditions in an urban environment.

TRACK REQUIREMENTS. The following are the suggested minimum requirements for a TDU track:

The track must be at least 440 yards and not more than 500 yards in length.

Tracks will have a minimum of two (2) different surfaces, vegetated and non-vegetated. At least 10% but not more than 20% will be plotted crossing non-vegetated surfaces. Tracks may cross paved sidewalks, lightly traveled roads, baseball diamonds, parking lots and other non-vegetated surfaces. Various pedestrian, animal or vehicle traffic will be considered a normal occurrence. The start, first leg and first turn must be plotted on a vegetated surface.

SCENT ON TRACK: The scent on the track must be not less than thirty (30) minutes or more than two (2) hours old.

ARTICLES: The TDU test articles will consist of three (3) personal, dissimilar cloth or leather articles and will be the size of a glove or wallet. The start article must be made of cloth. The third article will be a glove or wallet and will be dropped at the end of the track.

TRACK SPECIFICS: The first turn must be at least 30 yards from the second flag. The length of each of the legs thereafter must be at least 50 yards. A total of three (3) to five (5) turns must be used and will include both left and right 90-degree angle turns. No acute angle turns are to be used. At least two (2) of the 90-degree turns will be well out in the open.

No turns will be plotted on non-vegetated surfaces. Turns may be plotted no less than fifteen (15) yards before or after crossing a non-vegetated surface. No cross-tracks will be used. There shall be no physical obstacles, barriers, or obstructions for the handler or dog to negotiate.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: When adopted as a titling event, the following would apply:

Dogs entering the test will be required to pass a TDU certification track unless the dog already has an AKC tracking title. Exhibitors may earn the TD and TDU titles, but only one of these titles will be required for a dog to enter a TDX or VST test.

Champion Tracker Jordan! by Sarah Helber

From the time he was a puppy, I had wanted Jordan to become a Champion Tracker. I drove him home from the San Diego area, and, after a week to get adjusted, started tracking with him. I was a great believer in the VST concept, but wasn't comfortable with the process to start a VST dog. I had also not put a TDX on a dog, so was not as sure of that either. Consequently, I compromised in my training. I worked the TD and TDX as I had been trained and as I had watched, with a couple of modifications. I did not train street crossings as an obstacle (i.e. something to be gotten past and then the track reacquired). I worked on sparser covers than I normally would have. I used a wider variety of articles (including metal) and I tried to work in parks with people and contamination at least once a week.

Believing that is good experience and not being able to risk not making the draw in the local (DOTC and Tri-Cities) TD tests, I entered him in El Paso as well. He did a super job in El Paso, and had his TD at just short of nine months of age. We withdrew and laid track for DOTC, then passed again at Tri-Cities in Fort Worth. Finally, we entered and passed at our National Specialty near Newport Beach, CA. By the time he was a year old we had three very different TD's.

The next spring I felt he was ready for TDX. He *almost* passed his (and mine, actually) first TDX test, but did not. We did pass later at the National Specialty in Athens, GA. So, by the age of two, Jordan had his TD and TDX titles. That left the VST portion of the Champion Tracker title. That would take us another nine years. Off and on, and coming very close several times, but still - 9 years. And now time was running out—Jordan was 11 years young.

The morning of the VST test I lay in bed reviewing some key things I wanted to remember. They're so simple and obvious, but sometimes so hard to do. They were:

1. Trust my dog. When he starts or starts a new leg, put on a slight pressure as a check and if he says "go", go.
2. Don't wear my dog out. When he says "go", go. If he struggles searching, be quick to re-scent him.
3. Jordan usually breaks with me on the turn. Assume that's what happened.
4. Once Jordan breaks, don't let him go on unless he's actually tracking. He's precise enough that we shouldn't have to

wander to find the next leg (boy was I wrong about that one!)

5. If we can't find the track from where we are, try to work back to where we did have track.
6. After each article, offer him water and re-scent him.

The VST test was given by Denver Foothills Tracking Association on October 4, 2009 in Golden, Colorado. Judges were Darlene Barnard and Jean Hilbig and my tracklayer was Nancy Hamilton. The weather was cold (early temperature in the 40's). Always a good thing. It was a bit windy, though. We drew the 7th (and last) track. Not a good thing for us. One team (Tana Rugg and a Dalmatian) had passed; the rest had failed.

The track was 3 hours old. It was 603 yards long, with 296 yards of vegetated surface and 307 of non-vegetated surface. Articles were a sock, a plastic sink strainer, a metal patch plate, and a piece of perforated leather. All turns were



(approximately) 90 degree angles, and the track was basically 59 yards, left turn, 100 yards (with plastic article #2), left turn, 59 yards, right turn, 156 yards, right turn, 33 yards, left turn, 87 yards (with metal article #3), left turn, 40 yards, right turn, 69 yards (with final leather article). It took us 40 minutes to run the track.

The start flag was near the rim of a bowl of grass. The area had buildings on either side, a chain link fence and the freeway (I-70) directly

across from us, and a large fountain. I couldn't see footprints, but could see a cross-hatch of mowing imprints.

The judges took us in almost straight. Jordan was raring to go, and I was, as usual, telling him "easy!" as we approached the flag. I downed him, and he had to wait while I untied the start article (a small sock) from the flag.

He took off, weaved a tiny bit, and headed for the street sign on the freeway to the left of the fountain. I went with him. For most of the leg, it didn't look like there was a way to go left at the fence, so I was mentally preparing to get wet! Then as I got closer, I could see that we could indeed go left.

When he got close to the fence, Jordan turned to the right and looked at the fountain with a funny set to his ears. I think he was envisioning getting wet, too. Then he turned left with confidence and headed down the second leg.

The second leg was all on grass, mostly between the fence

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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	12	13	14	15	16	17 Class
18 TD	19	20	21	22	23	24 Class
25 Meeting 1:30/TD	26	27	28	29	30	31

NOVEMBER, 2009

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

EVENTS

October 4: TDX—Springfield, MO—close 9/16

Anna Freeman
aandyfreeman@sbcglobal.net

October 4: TD/TDX—Elgin, IL—closes 9/17

Larry Badon: 773-505-5431

October 10: TD/TDX—Littleton, CO—closes 9/29

Cynthia Hutt: 303-655-8476

October 18: TD—Elgin, IL closes 10/08

Carol Dinelli
wayneredwood@att.net

October 25: TD—Littleton, CO closes 10/14

Lynn Kaemmerer

November 1: TDX—Littleton, CO closes 10/21 Patti Pigeon

November 8: TD/TDX—Houston, TX closes 10/29
Pat Sayles psayles@un.ed

November 14: TDX—Littleton, CO closes 11/4 Patti Pigeon

November 22: VST—Houston, TX closes 11/12 Tom Hacholski
tilbury.hac@netzero.net

November 29: TD—Fort Worth, TX closes 11/19 Debra Lyons
deblyonsfw@sbcglobal.net

DECEMBER, 2009

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

JANUARY, 2010

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

EVENTS

December 6: TD/TDX—
Skiatook, OK closes 11/17 Sue
Young readtype@hotmail.com

December 6: TD—Bellvue, CO
closes 11/18 Megan Donovan
970-988-8618

December 6: TD—Houston, TX
closes 11/26 Cynthia Krohn
cyn@krohncentral.com

January 10: VST—Las Cruces,
NM closes 12/16 Linda Fischer
canyonflowers@juno.com

January 10: TD/TDX—Houston,
TX closes 12/31 Kathy Daniel
danielmk@airmail.net

January 10: TD—Placitas, NM
closes 12/30 Lynn Wilson
505-884-9095

January 17: VST—Bedford, TX
closes 1/6 Nancy Barclay
berrybar15@verizon.net

January 31: TD—Fort Bliss, TX
closes 1/20 Norma Rust
njrust@aol.com

August, 2009 DFWTC Meeting Minutes

DFW Tracking Club
August 09, 2009
HEB Hospital Meeting Room

The meeting was called to order at 1:45 p.m. by President Deb Lyons. Members in attendance were Benita Zapata, Cindi Todd, Nancy Barclay, Rod Barclay, Marian Beck-Edwards, Sarah Helber, Cherita Sherrill, Koni Vahdat, Paula Gifford, Monica Becherer, Charlene Dunn, Tracy Freeling, and Deb Lyons.

Cherita Sherrill motioned and Benita Zapata seconded to approve the minutes as printed in the newsletter. The motion passed.

President's Report – The AKC sent a letter about the new TDU to the club asking clubs to evaluate the new criteria and send feedback before December 31, 2009. Deb read the requirements. Monica Becherer made a motion and Paula Gifford seconded, to try the TDU informally before the October meeting, then the club as a whole has time before the December deadline to send the AKC a response. The motion passed. Results to be discussed at the October meeting.

Vice President's Report – No report.

Secretary's Report – Cindy sent the AKC letter to Deb to read. AKC has updated our files with the new Bylaws. Cindy also said next week she will begin emailing prospective students on August 13th that classes are open for signup.

Treasurer's Report - Charlene Dunn passed out income/expense and net worth reports. Charlene also showed members the new signs and t-shirts the club ordered from Cafepress.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Budget: Sarah Helber passed around the budget developed by the committee. Monica Becherer made a motion and Paula Gifford seconded to accept the budget as presented. The motion passed.

Nominating: Slate was unopposed in June. Slate stands elected.

Fall Tracking Test: The test is Nov 28th-29th. Need to send the Super 8 website to Bob to make sure its ok for him. If he approves, we will book it for Fri/Sat. Deb needs to contact security. Charlene will look for the email for security. Deb will work on the premium list and publish before the next weekend. The committee is as follows:

Chairperson / Secretary: Deb Lyons

Chief Tracklayer: Tracy Freeling

Hospitality: Nancy Barclay

Jan Tracking Test: The test is Jan 16th-17th. Chairperson / Secretary is Nancy Barclay. Nancy has secured the judges for the test. John and Darlene have sent back the contract. Nancy has the premium ready she just needs a committee to complete. Deb will look into booking the room Fri-Sun. Deb will be hospitality chair. Chief tracklayer will be Rod Barclay. John and Darlene want to plot Fri & Sat. Charlene will look into booking their flight Thursday – Monday.

Spring Tracking Test: The test is Mar 13th-14th. Chairperson / Secretary is Tracy Freeling. Deb will log onto the AKC site tonight and double check the date. If the date is correct she will apply for the test. A discussion on the judges was had. Charlene Dunn excused herself from the meeting. The club decided to hire John Bishop & Charlene Dunn for the judges.

OLD BUSINESS:

Club T-Shirts: Sarah Helber motioned and Cherita Sherrill seconded that the club discount be offered to members for a one-time order before the October meeting. The motion passed.

Club "Easy-Up": A replacement top will be ordered before the November test.

Folding Table: A folding table will be purchased before the November test.

Webpage: Deb passed around new verbiage for the website. Charlene mentioned everyone needed to go look at the new site www.dfwtc.org/newsite/index.html. Cindi Todd made a motion Nancy Barclay seconded that an email be sent to members, giving them 2 weeks to comment before the site is published. The motion passed. Sarah will send the word file to Charlene to incorporate into the new site.

NEW BUSINESS:

There was no new business.

The next meeting is scheduled for **October 25, 2009** 1:30 pm at the HEB Hospital. A motion to adjourn was made by Cherita Sherrill and seconded by Paula Gifford. The meeting was adjourned at 3:35p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Charlene Dunn for Cindy Morrow, Club Secretary

September Board Meeting Minutes

September 26, 2009 Board Minutes

Meeting to order: 10:18 A.M. at Charlene Dunn's house.

In Attendance: Deb Lyons, Cindy Morrow, Charlene Dunn, Monica Becherer, Cherita Sherrill, and Cindi Todd

OLD BUSINESS:

Judges - Two provisional judges were voted to judge for the March test which is not permissible. John Bishop has already been asked and accepted the assignment. Motion made by Cindi T., seconded by Cherita S., to ask Gillian Salling to be the second judge. Motion passed.

Premium lists - The November and January premium lists were proofread and corrections discussed. Corrections were given to respective Trial Secretaries to fix.

Worker slot 2010 changes - Worker spots for the VST trial were discussed. Decision was to not use this procedure at this time. If worker slots are offered they must be published in the premium list and it could only be for the next VST test not the 2010 test. The club would give coupons to the tracklayers.

Training director - The position of training director was tabled from the last meeting. This would cause another bylaw change. As there was already a voting issue that needed to be addressed in the bylaws, this was tabled until the next bylaw update.

Permanent storage location for files - Discussion on where to store, how to store, who keeps what files was held and it was decided that Cindy M. will scan items onto a CD, the information will be divided between the secretaries. The board will also look into how much a safety deposit box would cost the club.

NEW BUSINESS:

Bonding - Cindy M. made the motion to research bonding requirements for the club. Monica B. seconded the motion and it was passed. Cindi Todd will ask the person who just researched this same process for the DFW Dachshund Club Inc.

Bylaws - Discussion was held to appoint a bylaws revision committee to discuss several items for change. The following to be among the changes considered:

- ◆ Removing Bonding requirement.
- ◆ Changing number of required Board meetings.
- ◆ Show of hands not permissible for voting.

Charlene D. made the motion to appoint a bylaws revision committee, Cindy M seconded, motion passed. It will be brought up at the next club meeting for a committee chair.

Cindy M. made motion to adjourn. Cherita S. seconded. Meeting adjourned at 11:30 am.

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

AKC TRACKING SEMINAR FOR JUDGES

Presented by Betty Winthers, AKC Tracking Rep

The AKC tracking seminar for current and prospective AKC judges was well attended by DFW Tracking Club members. Charlene Dunn sent this summary of topics covered. The following contact numbers for the AKC Headquarters personnel who would be most useful for tracking inquiries and the contacts for herself and Diane Schultz the only other Tracking Reps currently in the AKC.

Curt Curtis. 919-816-3757

Lisa Strickland.lmw2@akc.org

Tommi Powell. tep@akc.org

Diane Schultz.dxs3@akc.org

Betty Winthers.bmw@akc.org

AKC Tracking was officially split from obedience in 1947, when the first Tracking Dog (TD) title was awarded. The AKC added the Tracking Dog Excellent (TDX) in 1980, and in 1995 introduced the Variable Surface Tracking (VST) and Champion Tracker (CT) titles. The first Tracking invitational was held in 2003.

How Dogs Track:

A dog's sight is not as good as humans, but their sense of smell is at least 10,000 better. As an example, Dachshunds have 125 million scent receptors, Fox Terriers have 147 million and German Shepherd Dogs have 220 million.

Some environmental parameters that can affect a dog's ability to follow a track would include

- | | | | | |
|-------|---------------|-------|----------------------|--------------|
| Easy: | 1. Moisture | Hard: | 1. Dry | 6. High Wind |
| | 2. Vapor | | 2. Temperature | 7. UV Rays |
| | 3. Overcast | | 3. Low Humidity | |
| | 4. Vegetation | | 4. Low Pressure | |
| | 5. No Wind | | 5. Sparse Vegetation | |

Dogs need to be **acclimated** with the climate and terrain where tests are to be held. If possible, you should arrive at the test site several days before a test and acclimate the dog with a short track. Tracking people as a whole do not proof their dogs as obedience people do. *In VST it is a must for the dog to be proofed as much as possible.*

SOME STATISTICS:

In 2007 there were 835 dogs entered in a Tracking Dog (TD) Test. Of these 459 passed and 376 failed. In 2008 there were 872 dogs entered with 487 passing and 385 failing. The most common reasons for failures were:

First turn:	2007—107	2008—86
Second turn:	2007—72	2008—70
Articles:	2007—10	2008—5
Guiding:	2007-5	2008—5

There were 695 dogs entered in a Tracking Excellent (TDX) Test in 2007 with only 125 passing. Of 725 dogs entered in 2008 only 143 passed. The most common failures involved:

First turn:	2007—101	2008—116
Second turn:	2007—47	2008—63
Cross tracks:	2007—49	2008—57
Starts:	2007—62	2008—53
Articles:	2007—25	2008—23
Guiding:	2007—5	2008—7

For Variable Surface Tracking, there were 319 dogs entered in 2007 with 23 passing and 339 dogs entered in 2008 with 20 passing. In VST, the most common reasons for failure included:

First leg:	2007—43	2008—63
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Second leg	2007—26	2008—37
First turn	2007—56	2008—43
Second turn	2007—38	2008—48
Grass	2007—35	2008—126
Asphalt	2007—63	2008—80
Concrete	2007—31	2008—43
Articles	2007—39	2008—28
Guiding	2007—2	2008—3

BECOMING A TRACKING JUDGE:

To become a TD judge you must meet the following criteria:

- * Owned & trained 2 dogs to the TD title and been active in the sport for at least 6 years.
- * Been a tracklayer 10 times (must submit maps from 2).
- * Apprenticed under 2 judges at 2 different tests.
- * Active as a tracking trainer (AKC acknowledges there aren't tracking classes; private lessons are fine as long as it is documented).
- * Attend an AKC tracking seminar in the last 3 years.
- * Complete the application, questionnaire, and open book test (draw a map and essay on scent).
- * Be published in the Gazette as an "applicant".
- * Complete the multiple choice test with a score of 80% or better and meet with a field rep.
- * Be approved as "Provisional" by the judges' approval committee.

To advance to Regular Status you must:

- * Serve as a judge for 5 tests with 3 separate judges (spouse can only count for 1).
- * Have one satisfactory observation within the last year.
- * Apply for regular status.

To become a TDX judge you must meet the following criteria:

- * Owned and trained a dog to a TDX title and another dog to a TD title.
- * Follow the steps same as TD.

To become a VST judge you must meet the following criteria:

- * Owned and trained a dog to a VST title or be a fully licensed TDX judge.
- * Follow the steps same as TD.

HOLDING A TRACKING TEST:

Land requirements:

TD 5-10 acres (increase from the 5 acres originally)

TDX 15-20 acres (increase from the 10 originally)

If you are using sites that are separated by a distance of greater than 5-10 miles, you must apply for each address and receive separate event number.

Site Approval for VST sites must include an aerial map with the number of tracks drawn to scale. This is submitted to 250 Folklore Drive; Satsuma, FL 32189.

SUGGESTIONS FOR SETTING UP A TEST SITE

- ◆ Build a working relationship with the facility.
- ◆ Provide proof of insurance.
- ◆ Have all tracklayers, judges, participants, club members, etc sign release forms.
- ◆ Share land with the public.

- ◆ Share land between clubs.
- ◆ Tracklayers must leave NO traces.

CLUB RESPONSIBILITIES WHEN HOLDING A TRACKING TEST

Appoint a Test Committee which should consist of a chairperson/secretary and chief tracklayer as well as a minimum of five club members to be on site for the duration of plotting tracks and holding the test.

- ◆ Contact and create contracts with judges.
- ◆ Provide sufficient land.
- ◆ Provide site maps if requested.
- ◆ Send judges a judging program.
- ◆ Provide equipment, flags, and radios.
- ◆ Have adequate manpower for all days of the test/plotting.
- ◆ Provide transportation.
- ◆ Provide hospitality for judges and exhibitors.
- ◆ Prepare Judges books.

2010 TRACKING REGULATION ENHANCEMENTS:

1. Combined test can now be one or more consecutive days.
2. Land used on day one *cannot* be used on day two.
3. Separate draws for each day.
4. Dogs on site for day only.
5. AK, HI, and national specialties now allow for one entry per dog, except at a combined test spanning multiple days.
6. VST Test Changes:
 - *At least 50 yards between legs unless blocked by building
 - *One turn must be in an area devoid of vegetation and must have 30 yards before returning to vegetation
 - *Article size: minimum 2x4, maximum 2x5 - may be weighted
7. Test Worker Option (Giving Test Workers a preference in a Club's test)
 - * Should be based on work in previous tracking test
 - * Club has the option to offer and can decide which type of worker gets the privilege
 - * Draw for workers first, remaining workers go into the general draw pool
 - * No separate alternate list
 - * The ratio of tracks to worker slots should be as follows:

Tracks	TD	TDX	VST
1-4	0	0	0
5	0	1	1
6	2	2	2
7-8	2	2	2
9-11	3	2	2
12 or more	4	4	2

8. Judging Program:
 - *List entry number in order drawn (or received when limit is not reached)
 - *No owners or dogs names listed
 - *List time of the draw

*List location of test and directions

*Provide the cell phone number of a committee member who will be present throughout the test

9. Test Cancellations:

*Only the AKC rep, club president, or test chairman/secretary can cancel a test

*Call 919-816-3955 to cancel a test

*To hear about cancelled events call 919-816-3950 or 1-877-252-3229

10. VST Judges Books

*Use common abbreviations for surfaces

G - grass

BT - blacktop

A - asphalt

C - concrete

D - dirt

*Keep a running total of vegetated/non-vegetated yards

Contact Charlene Dunn for more information on any of the above topics.

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and a building. Part way down Jordan stopped and sniffed hard at something on the freeway side of the fence. I was certain there was no track there, so I told him to "leave it!". He took off and found the first article (a white plastic sink strainer). I wasn't sure until he brought it to me that it was an article. He had checked out several large leaves and a piece of paper that had blown against the fence.

We started off again along the fence. As we approached the end of the building on our left, there was a picnic table, with a couple of people sitting there smoking. We blew on past them down the fence - on and on and on. I kept thinking we'd turn into the parking lot to our left, but Jordan kept going. I could see a path in the grass, but I'd seen lots of paths in the grass, and none of them seemed to be consistent with Jordan's path. I did wonder if that was the turn when one bent off from where we were (it wasn't), but we kept going.

Finally we reached a point at which I really felt the judges surely wouldn't have continued. I felt a terrible panic that we had indeed overshot the turn.

Over our career, this is the point at which we usually fail - *when I panic*. I had thought hard about that, and was able to contain myself. Thank goodness, I think my panic jolted Jordan awake, because he didn't try to keep going. Once he circled around to search behind me, I turned and we started back looking for the turn we must have missed.

Finally I noticed we were getting pretty close to the gallery. That made me really nervous. They'd been pretty picky about not letting folks get close to the working team, and we were getting pretty close. Just then, Jordan took out towards the far side of the curb around the dumpsters (dumpsters - another of my favorite things), and took off to the right. I immediately remembered that I'd been working him on serpentine around curbs and wondered if he was jumping at that. Then he straightened out down the leg,

close to the ends of the parking lines. That, too, I do frequently. Again I doubted, but kept going. I even thought I heard someone say my name as we went by, but I kept going. They may have, but they weren't calling me off. As we passed the crowd, Jordan looked at them (he doesn't usually look at people around us). When I went back to take pictures of the track, I found a statue of a bear in one of the niches around the building. Maybe his brain was on the bear and not the track. Only Jordan knows.

At any rate, according to Darlene, he came right back to the track and headed down it correctly. Then we managed to overshoot the 3rd turn. There were parked cars there, one of which he checked out. He didn't try to turn left at all, but worked the grass awhile, then he bent back into the parking lot. We went over one parking berm, into the next aisle and he started pulling straight down the aisle towards a building. Darlene said that he again found the leg exactly.

This fourth leg was a long leg that went down the middle of the parking aisle towards a big green box at the end. No trouble here, no questions. When we passed an intersection in the parking lot, and onto a slightly different surface, I tightened up and he said "come on". So I did.

As we approached the green box, there was a brown wooden enclosure to the right. As we passed it, Jordan turned right to check out its entry, but came immediately back to the track and said "come on". When we got to the green box, Jordan turned right onto the sidewalk without even thinking about it. I went with him.

Jordan very confidently took a left turn onto grass. Unfortunately, it turned out to be about 6 - 10 feet short of the actual turn. When we got even with a large decorative rock in front of the building entrance, he broke and started looking around. I did so, also, and spotted a metal patch plate on the sidewalk to the right (opposite from us) of the big rock. He checked out the building door, started back towards me,

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and I was relieved to be able to start working backwards. He then found the track and the article. He worked at picking the article up, but I didn't wait for him to do so. I gave him water and re-scented him.

He started off again down the sidewalk, and I started looking ahead to see what was there. At the corner of the building there was a small decorative pool and waterfall. The track had gone around the pool on the grass, and then turned left in the grass just beyond the pool. The track then paralleled the sidewalk, in the grass, until it turned right into the parking lot.

Jordan made the turn correctly but, for whatever reason, he then worked up higher on the grass, to the left of the track. Then he seemed to kick in, and went left around the corner of the building. I didn't feel that he was searching - I felt that he was tracking. Now I wish I knew what he was tracking, since the track didn't go there. We kept on going, approaching the edge of the building. At that point, panic set in again, as I realized that that was the parking lot we'd just been in (with the brown wooden enclosure). Jordan broke off again, and I (thinking he had been on the track) started working back, thinking perhaps we'd missed the last article. As we worked back, he wasn't finding track again. That made me pretty suspicious, so I re-scented him. By that time I'd figured we had once again overshot a turn. We backed up on the grass near the corner of the building, and Jordan took out across the parking lot. By this time I didn't honestly see how we could still be passing, but I'd told myself I wouldn't give up til they clearly blew me off. I'll have to admit that that experience I had where they let me keep working until we found the

glove (but not article #3), but I didn't pass, crossed my mind. We were the last dog - maybe they just wanted to see what we would do.

At any rate, Jordan came right back to the leg and was a little to the left of it across the parking lot. He came to the grass on the far side and went up onto the berm. Although it crossed my mind that I might see the final article if I got up on the berm, I was afraid of pushing him over it if the track didn't go there, so stayed on the parking lot. Jordan worked back to the right along the top of the berm a short distance. Suddenly he planted his nose into the ground and took a sharp left turn. There was no reason to question him, so I took off up the berm with him, and over the top.

From the top of the berm I could see a small lot, with the sprinkler system going on the right half of it. Yet another opportunity for a chilly shower! Mainly I was watching my dog. I'd briefly noticed some plastic pieces that I truly didn't think were an article, and worried that they might distract Jordan. They didn't at all! Suddenly he swooped down and came up with a yellow piece of leather and stood looking at me. Silly me, I didn't even turn it over to see if it had the number "4" on it (it did). I looked back at the judges, and Darlene raised her arms and they came towards us. I gave Jordan a great big hug! Jordan was finally CT Ambition's Almond Joy Qui Rit, MX AXJ NF RE!

Congratulations Sarah & Jordan!

Ten Commandments for Pet Owners

1. My life is likely to last 10 to 15 years. Any separation from you will be very painful.

2. Give me time to understand what you want from me. Do not break my spirit with your temper. Though I will always forgive you, your patience will teach me more effectively.

3. Please have me spayed or neutered.

4. Treat me kindly. No heart in all the world is more grateful for your kindness than mine. Don't be angry with me for long, and don't lock me up as punishment. You have other things in your life, I have only you.

5. Speak to me often. Even if I don't understand your words, I understand your voice when it's speaking to me.

Your voice is the sweetest sound I ever hear as you can tell by my enthusiasm whenever I hear your footsteps.

6. Take me in when it's cold and wet. I'm a domestic animal and am not accustomed to the bitter elements. I ask for little more than your gentle hands petting me. Keep my bowl filled with water and feed me good food. By your side, I stand ready, willing and able to share my life with you, for that is what I live for.

7. Don't hit me. Remember I have teeth that could easily crush the bones in your hand, but I choose not to bite you.

8. Before you scold me for being lazy or uncooperative, ask yourself if something might be bothering me.

Perhaps I'm not getting the right food, or my heart may be getting weak.

9. Take care of me when I get old. For you will grow old too.

10. When I no longer enjoy good health, please do not make heroic efforts to keep me going. I am not having fun. Just see to it that my trusting life is taken gently. And be with me on that difficult journey when it's time to say goodbye. Never say, "I just can't bear to watch." Everything is easier for me when you are there. I will leave this earth knowing with my last breath that my fate was always safest in your hands. I love you.

