



Obediently Yours

Devoted to the Training of Dogs for
Better Human Companionship

G R E A T E R S T . L O U I S T R A I N I N G C L U B

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Teaching With Acoustical Guidance

By Lucy Bailey, CPDT, KPCTP

What? Using sound to help people learn? Yes, that's it. People can learn faster and perform more consistently when a sound is used to mark the exact behavior needed to perform an activity. It is a clear, consistent means of communication without emotion. Like using a clicker to train a dog? Yes, like using a clicker to train a dog. There are a few differences, however, and Theresa McKeon presented a TAGteach workshop at the Humane Society in November to explain.

In TAGteaching a clicker is used to mark the behavior, just as in clicker training with dogs. Early on, Teresa, a gymnastics coach for young girls, discovered that parents did not approve of her training their children using a dog training technique. She came up with the term, Teaching with Acoustical Guidance, Or TAGteaching, and that made it okay.

One nice thing about teaching people is that communication can get a big head start by having a conversation about what is expected. The coach can state what the target behavior looks like and the student can take their best shot right away. From this base line, the coach can use the clicker to communicate specific refinements in the performance.

Try it yourself. Get a friend to work with you. Hold your arm out to the side at shoulder height, parallel to the floor. Talk with each other to establish what you mean by holding your arm perfectly horizontal. Now you agree on the goal behavior.

Next, close your eyes and concentrate on holding your arm out perfectly horizontally as previously decided. Have your friend click immediately when your arm is in position. How many tries does it take? Now drop your hand to your side and try again. Keep your eyes closed to be sure you are focusing on the information from the clicker. Remind your friend not to laugh or talk. Repeat this ten times. Is it getting easier? The click that you hear when your arm is in position is helping you understand what your muscles feel like at that moment and making it more likely that your brain can guide your arm to feel that way again.

Maybe during this process, you and your friend have discovered that you had not completely defined your goal behavior. You are doing well, but your friend has noticed that sometimes your arm seems straighter than others. You try holding your arm out in several ways, all horizontal. Your friend has noticed that when your elbow is pointing toward the ground, your arm appears less straight and your friend does not want to click you when that happens as it is not your best performance.

With further observation, you notice that the position of your hand determines the position of the elbow. When your palm is facing down, your elbow is not! Now is the time for a TAG point. A tag point is stated in five words or fewer. In this case a good TAG point is, "Palm facing down." You already know what horizontal feels like, so now you focus on palm facing down. Nothing to it – and you know you've got it because you are getting that click.

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GONE BY NOT FORGOTTEN by Karen Fuss

06/01/2001-12/02/2009 CH OTCH WILDFIRE'S SO SO GOOD UDX11, RE, ROM

Earning his first major from the 6-9 puppy dog class, expertly handled by the late Jeanenne Thompson, who would of know that he would be finished at a year of age and be an Obedience Trial Champion by the time he was Four.

The only live puppy in a litter. I always called him the Lord's Pick. He was a Multiple High in Trial, High Combined



winning dog. Solo retired after earning 520 OTCH points, and 118 UDX legs at the age of eight. He is the only CH OTCH Doberman that had a parent that is a Ch OTCH. He was just So So Good and we loved and miss him So much. On November 9th, 2009 we decided to take Solo to the University of Columbia for an MRI. He was having trouble with pain at times and we wanted to find out what was bothering him. He was diagnosed with 2 bulging disk. He walked in without much trouble. After the MRI he had trouble walking, but got better after steriod treatment. He had Surgery on 12/1/2009 and died on 12/2/2009 due to cardia arrest. I was also told by the university that Solo had no signs of DCM when the autopsy was done. We are so shocked that we lost our boy. He had a show record that was un-heard of for a male doberman. #1 in the AKC working group for obedience in 2006. Invited to the AKC Invitational from the first year he earned his UD in 2004 till the year he reitred in 2009. Was ranked in the Top 10 of Dobermans for Obedience from 2003 to 2009. Most important he was the best at sitting in my lap on the lazyboy when I was tired. He also loved to watch TV with my husband after I went to bed. He was a joy to travel with as he would sing with Tina Turner when we listened to her as we drove down the road. There is an empty spot in our hearts with his passing..

News Bites

Much congratulations to our newest Assistant Trainers, Kim Conway and Jeff Jensen! They have both passed all of their Certification Course including the Skills Assessment portion! Welcome, and we are so glad to have you both!!... Cinder Wilkinson-Kenner, CPDT-KA

I wanted to give all of you early notice about a seminar the HSMO is sponsoring on April 10, 2010, by Nicole Wilde. It is a little different than other events we have sponsored, but I think you will find it extremely interesting. This seminar is based upon her newest book "Energy Healing for Dogs - Using Hands-on Healing to Improve Canine Health and Behavior". I have read the book and cannot wait to experience the seminar. I am including a short descriptive paragraph about the seminar, but you can read a much more detailed explanation by visiting our web site.

"Imagine a gentle, non-invasive healing method that can address pain, injury, and illness; speed recovery after surgery; and have remarkable effects on fear, anxiety, aggression, depression, and trauma. Energy healing can do all this and more! It works by stimulating the body's natural ability to heal itself, and can assist dogs in resolving a myriad of physical, emotional, and even mental issues."

"Energy healing will not cause harm, has no side effects, and can be used in conjunction with other holistic therapies or conventional medical treatments. Done on a regular basis, this safe, effective practice can help to keep dogs healthy and well-balanced." Nicole will also focus on the way flower essences can affect dogs. You'll receive extensive handouts, hear about research studies, and participate in a group exercise that will teach you how to choose the proper flower essences to address specific problems.

This one-day seminar is close to home and inexpensive. There is a mail-in registration form already on our web site, or you can register on-line starting 11/15/2009.

Please contact me if you have any questions...Linda Campbell

Take Note!! Our Very own Tina Ward wins the BEST IN SHOW category, for her crossover dog/client story about (also our very own!) Winston and Victoria! Kudos to Tina!!...Cinder

Announcement from the Association of Pet Dog Trainers:

The votes are in and we wish to congratulate the winners of our first ever National Train Your Dog Month contest!

Adopted/Rehomed Dog Story

Trainer **Julie Fudge Smith from Granville, OH**, wrote the winning entry about an adopted dog entitled "What About Bob?"

Crossover Client Story

Trainer **Sue Conklin**, wrote the winning entry about a client who learned about new, positive methods in "Old Dogs (and Owners) Can Learn New Tricks"

Involving Children in Training Story

Trainer **Shannon Finch** wrote the winning entry about involving a family's children in the training process in "Ruby's Story: Growls, Barks and Stolen Hearts"

Puppy/Adolescent Story

Trainer **Barbara Shumannfang** wrote the winning entry about working with a puppy or adolescent dog in "Callie"

"Best in Show" Story

Trainer Tina Ward from St. Louis, MO wrote the winning entry in our "Best of Show" category exemplifying the powerful results of pairing positive training with a dedicated owner and her dog, "Winston - The "Untrainable" Setter"

We will have the winning essays up on the National Train Your Dog Month web site, www.trainyourdogmonth.com, and we will continue to feature the stories from other entrants in the future as well. Stay tuned for details this summer for our 2011 National Train Your Dog Month contest! If you've done something for National Train Your Dog Month, such as held an educational event, got a proclamation from your local government, a local media spot or anything else to help promote the campaign and grow your business, please be sure to let us know at trainyourdogmonth@apdt.com. We'd like to feature what our members have done on the web site in the future, as well as at the 2010 APDT Annual Educational Conference and Trade Show.

REPORT FROM CLICKER EXPO 2010—PORTLAND, OREGON by Dixie Tenny, CPDT

My husband Shane Whelan and I just returned from a three-week trip to the West Coast that included a weekend at the Clicker Expo in Portland, Oregon. What an interesting experience that was. I have been to the APDT conference several times, but with its narrower focus (clicker training rather than all kinds of positive training), Clicker Expo attracted a different crowd and delivered what felt to me like a stronger and more unified message. Many of the country's top trainers and researchers were there, including Ken Ramirez, Karen Pryor, Alexandra Kurland, Kathy Sdao, Emma Parsons, Jesus Rosales-Ruiz, and Steve & Jen White. There was also a chance to hear top speakers from abroad such as Kay Laurence from England, and Eva Bertilsson & Emelie Johnson Vegh from Sweden.

Here are a few observations and personal highlights from Clicker Expo.

Very few participants brought dogs. The dogs who were in attendance were very well behaved, which was a good thing because they spent most of their time lying quietly by their owners during lengthy presentations. It was distracting even when a dog just stood up and shifted around if one was trying to concentrate on what a speaker was saying. I appreciated that only those handlers who could truly keep their dogs quiet and relaxed took their dogs with them to the Expo - something for those headed to Kentucky to keep in mind.

There were lots of opportunities to observe "labs" - active sessions with dogs and their owners. Of those we attended, I felt that only one was well-run; Kay Laurence's lab on dog play (this was fantastic - if she offers it in Kentucky, don't miss it). Many speakers, however excellent they might be on stage during talks, did not seem to do a very good job of coordinating participants and auditors during the labs so that everyone with a dog got to participate and every auditor could see and learn from what was happening. I heard this complaint about labs echoed by many other attendees. I learned a great deal from Kay Laurence's lab, but felt like the others I attended were a waste of my time. I actually walked out of one halfway through because it was so chaotic.

I enjoyed some very interesting conversations with other conference attendees during lunches all three days. One of the most interesting was with a trainer from England who raises and trains Lakeland terriers. She said that she has been splitting her time in recent years between England and the US, and has had a very hard time finding appropriate food for her terriers here. She said that in England, it is commonly accepted that the high protein content so common in dog food here is linked with aggression and hyperactivity in dogs, and adjusting the dog's diet is usually the first course of action when a trainer there encounters a dog with one of these problems - and sometimes that alone fixes the problem. She says she feeds her dogs 18% protein maximum (Avoderm is her food of choice here). I have heard hints of the high protein-aggression/hyperactivity link before, and was very interested to hear that it's widely accepted in England.

Eva Bertilsson and Emelie Johnson Vegh gave a fascinating talk on agility (two, actually, but I only attended the one for novice agility people). The method they use to address a very difficult issue - how to keep a dog alert and attentive during transition periods - was something I had never heard before and something I think would be invaluable in any dog sport or activity with "down periods" when a handler doesn't want to lose a dog but has nothing specific for the dog to do - from conformation showing to obedience trials. They have a book coming out in April. I will definitely be buying and reading it (advance copies at the trade show sold out halfway through the first day of Clicker Expo).

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Julie Skinner Vargas, daughter of B. F. Skinner and a behavioral scientist herself, gave a very interesting closing talk about her father and his work. I enjoyed her response to a question from the audience about how one should respond to people who insist that animals have no emotions. She said “well, my first thought is to ask them, have you ever actually *met* an animal?”

The most sobering moment for me came when I thought I deduced a serious ramification from a research result reported at the conference. I went to Jesus Rosales-Ruiz and asked him about this, and he confirmed my conclusion. Recent research indicates that not only is a dog reinforced for the behavior that follows a command, but also for the behavior that *precedes* the command, because the command (or “cue”) itself is a reinforcer. Think about this. Have you ever heard, for example, a trainer tell a client that teaching a dog to “sit” gives an owner something to tell a dog to stop any unwanted behavior it may be engaged in? This new research tells us that any time an owner tells a misbehaving dog to do something it knows, the owner has reinforced the behavior the dog was doing in the first place. Dog is digging into the couch cushions, you tell the dog “off” (which it knows), it jumps off, -- dog was just reinforced for both obeying the “off” cue *and* for digging in the couch cushions! *Whatever the dog was doing just before hearing a cue it knows is reinforced when it performs the action indicated by the cue.* Yikes!! Time to rethink advising clients to use learned behavior in this way...and time to rethink doing it ourselves!

Overall, this was a very worthwhile event. Shane, who is a newcomer to pet training, says he learned a great deal from Kathy Sdao’s introductory-level lecture. I learned a lot from most of the more advanced sessions I attended, and the tighter focus of Clicker Expo allowed for more advanced and more specialized sessions than I’ve yet seen offered at APDT. I hope to be able to attend one of next year’s Clicker Expos and continue learning from this very intelligent and informed group of people.

In closing, I leave you with a quote from an excited and impassioned Steve White during his presentation, talking about clicker training: “it’s not freakin’ magic; it’s freakin’ *science!*”

Association of Pet Dog Trainers Declares January as National Train Your Dog Month!!!

Hundreds of thousands of dogs have been turned into animal shelters because their owners didn’t know how to deal with behavior problems and couldn’t find a reliable resource to help them. We, at the APDT, think it is long overdue to dedicate a month where we can bring awareness to the importance of socialization and training, and most of all, to inform the public that training your dog can be simple and fun! The APDT has selected January as the perfect month because, as we all know, so many dogs and puppies are adopted and brought home during the winter holidays. Our desire is to help these new pet parents start off the new year with their newest family member in the best way possible.

The APDT is planning a variety of events in January 2010 to celebrate **National Train Your Dog Month**. It is our hope that the everyday dog owners will visit our Web site, so that they can see how easy and fun training can be, and how patience, consistency and a deeper understanding of their dog’s behavior can lead to happier, healthier and harmonious households. We have a wide range of topics that we’ve covered so that pet owners will recognize themselves & their dogs. We have provided a great deal of information that will help using methods that are kind gentle and that have an emphasis on building your relationships with your dogs.

In addition the APDT has more than 5000 members who are willing and able to help dog owners who need help with their dogs. If there is one thing that current television shows about dog training have taught the public its that there are solutions to help dogs with behavior problems and there are alternatives to try before giving up your dog.

Our web site content will include contests winners from our membership, downloadable handouts on training, and regular updates on Facebook and Twitter with fun ideas and tips on how to train your dog. APDT members nationwide will help promote the event and focus on bringing awareness to their own home towns.

Please join the APDT in celebrating National Train Your Dog Month!

Another Dog Training Myth

My dog is one of those sensitive guys who is easily scared. He's scared by the usual things- thunder, firecrackers, but also gets worried about other "scarey" sounds- the ding of the toaster oven, the singing of the tea kettle, the hissing of the rice cooker... I had always been told, "Don't pet him, don't reassure or comfort him, you'll reinforce his fear." In the accompanying article, Patricia McConnell explains why that advice does not apply- petting does not reinforce the fear!

We should also all take pride in the Dogs with Issues classes that GSTLC teaches in conjunction with the Humane Society. In Shy Dog and Reactive Dog classes, the principles explained by Patricia McConnell are being put into practice everyday to help dogs and their families learn to live more relaxed and happy lives!

Barb Kohner

Here is the link to the article in The Bark:

<http://www.thebark.com/content/both-ends-leash-fear-reduction>

“INSIDE OF A DOG—WHAT DOGS SEE, SMELL AND KNOW” by Alexandra Horowitz

A Brief Review by Bill Giese

I just finished reading the book "Inside of a Dog - What Dogs See, Smell and Know" by Alexandra Horowitz, PhD and want to briefly share a little about the book. I thought it was very interesting and entertaining to read. In short, most of the book talks in some detail about dogs' sensory and cognitive abilities and what the world might "look" like from a dog's perspective. While the book contains a lot of science (but easy to read), the last couple chapters focus on the special human / dog bond. In those chapters, Horowitz encourages us humans as guardians for our canine companions to appreciate the bond while fulfilling an obligation to respect our differences. I was never much on writing book reports in school, but if you're looking for that next "dog book" to read, you might find this one interesting.

Tail Waggin' Language

Click on the link below for more information on tail wagging!!!

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/sciencetech/article-1247380/The-tell-tail-clue-happy-dog--wag-left.html>

2010 Obedience and Rally Trial

We are currently in full swing in preparation for our 2010 Obedience and Rally Trial. As always, this is a major undertaking and we need the support and help of many people. There are many jobs that need to be done that require a wide range of skills and abilities. There are some things that need to be done before the trial, some that need to be done during the trial and some that need to be done after the trial. Many of you are experienced exhibitors or have helped us in the past so you know what needs to be done. Some of you have probably never even attended a trial and don't have a clue. Don't worry - we have something for everyone! We will train you! We will help you! We will feed you!!!!

I have attached a chart that lists the areas where we will be needing help. This chart will give you an idea of what skills are needed, what experience you might need, an approximate number of hours we think we might need you, how many meetings you might have to attend. If you're good at marketing, there's something for you. If you're good at getting people/organizations to donate things, there's something for you. If you just want to be told what to do and where to go, there's something for you. If you are willing to transport judges to/from the airport to the hotel or to/from the hotel to the trial, there's something for you (and remember - these are dog people - they won't mind a dog hair or two in your car). Please look over the chart and see where you might fit in. And don't feel that if you can't be at the trial on both days that you can't just help on one.

All help will be sincerely appreciated. So, what about those dates I mentioned in the subject? Friday, January 29 - 7:00 - 9:00 - at the Humane Society on Macklind - Our first full trial kickoff meeting. If you think you might be interested in helping but you're not sure, please come to this meeting. We will explain things in more detail and answer all your questions. You'll be able to meet some of the people who have already agreed to help. We're not sure what room we'll be in yet so more details will be forthcoming. May - time and date to be determined - a club meeting in which we will train those members who have agreed to be ring stewards. Rings will be set up and if you want to bring your dog and practice, that would be great.

- ◆ Saturday, May 15 - Bark in the Park - The GSLTC is going to have a booth at this event sponsored by the Humane Society. (We will need someone to help us decide what we want to do and we will need people to "man" the booth)
- ◆ Friday, May 21 - Trial Set-up - people will be need that evening to set up gating, tables, raffle table, etc. at the trial site (Wayne C. Kennedy Recreational Complex in South County Park). Movers will be hired to bring and lay down the heavy mats, etc.
- ◆ Saturday & Sunday, May 22 & 23 - The trial. On Sunday afternoon, we will need people to help clean up and undo everything that was done on Friday.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at fbeezy@charter.net or Lucy Bailey, our Trial Chairman, at lebailey@mindspring.com. I will be putting the Job Chart in the files section of the GSLTC Yahoo Group.

Fran Beezley

Here is a link to the jobs chart:

<http://d.yimg.com/kq/groups/11142297/1538971905/name/Chart-jobs%20by%20skills.doc>

THE LINDA MORRIS GUIDE TO TEACHING FAMILY DOG ONE

Welcome to Family Dog One! The goal of this class is to get your dog's attention. If you have your dog's attention he will be ready for the next direction you give.

This was how I often began Family Dog 1 (FD1) class. As trainers or experienced dog handlers, the FD1 experience can be easily overlooked as elementary or simply a non-item. For new dog owners, or owners of a dog who "isn't listening," FD1 can make all the difference in the world. In FD 1 class I have seen the relationship between a dog and her handler amazingly transformed once that "attention" connection is made. We open a whole new world to our owners in FD1 and it's awesome!

Because of that transformation, FD1 is a big part of my passion for dog training. Each week as I prepared for class I took time to consider two tenets important in keeping class relevant and effective for our students, as well as for myself.

TENET ONE: It's wonderful when someone teaches you something you thought you knew a lot about, and in such a gracious way that you feel respected even as you are corrected. When that happens you want to pursue learning. Before joining GSLTC, I had made many mistakes training my own dogs. After joining the club, I learned that I had also acquired a lot of dog training misinformation. If my trainers had smacked me upside the head with my "cluelessness" I would have felt stupid or angry and would have quit coming to class. That's the last thing we want to happen in FD1 class. We want to create an environment of respect and truth so that our students will want to return. We train because we know how satisfying a good dog/person relationship is, and we want others to have the same experience. It's good for dogs, people, and all of their relationships.

Those of you who have done True Colors are probably remarking on the BLUEness of my comments. Look closely and you'll see these comments apply across the colors. The GOLD want to know how to do it the right way, the ORANGE want something fun that works, and the GREEN want to know the science of it all, without dealing with someone stupid. And the BLUE want harmony in their people/dog relationships. All of these add up to respect and truth. In preparation for class each week, I reminded myself that this was the environment I wanted to create in class. By doing so, I was able to stay patient with all of our clients no matter how often I heard the same misinformation expressed, the same objection raised, the same mistakes being made. Our students are the people who want to get it right, so we've got to invite them into the process, even as we point out mistakes or misinformation along the way. In doing so, I was able to enjoy the transformations as students and their dogs began to understand one another.

TENET TWO: For most people, training their dog is NOT their passion. Remembering this helped me to not overwhelm people, or "Go Lab Rat," as I planned how to teach each behavior. For trainers, this is our passion. For the rest of the doggy public, especially at the FD1 level, there isn't always that much intensity, or at least not with every student.

So the second part of my preparation was to consider how to reach all of the students in the room. That meant thinking about all the personalities and what would get these folks interested and willing to keep at it. Everyone needs something to keep him in the game. Some need easy step-by-step instructions, some need the science behind how dogs understand the universe, some need to know how training techniques build communication, and some need results without too much pain.

I found that meant I needed to focus on five items:

When starting on a new behavior, I had to keep the instructions simple. For some folks just getting to class with the dog, treats, and a leash was an accomplishment. So we had to keep it do-able for these folks.

I had to give students clear explanations of why the behaviors we were teaching were important. This helped some students dig into the process.

Sharing the science behind dog behavior and learning was important; for some folks that really helped the light come on.

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Giving real life examples of where and when they would use all this stuff brought it together for people. It reminded students that they weren't there to simply master the tenets of class and graduate. They were there to build a "real world" relationship with their dog.

Lastly, I tried to create one different exercise each week so class would be fun. I found this kept the students engaged and increased my chances for connecting with a personality type I might have heretofore missed.

There you have it...the Linda Morris philosophy of Family Dog One.

As we saw last year in our stats, many students advanced to FD2 after FD1. I'd like to propose they did so because training became more engaging as they enjoyed the success and satisfaction of a polite, responsive dog. May some of my comments here help you bring about those successes as you work with the FD1 students of our future.

PRACTICAL COMMENTS

- ~ Talk to your assistant before class about folks who you know are struggling, or dogs that appear stressed out. Ask your assistant to keep an eye on them and be ready to dive in to help those particular folks if needed.
- ~ Have your assistant teach behaviors, as they are able. They need the experience and you might learn a cool way to present something you never thought of before!
- ~ Once students grasp how to keep their dog close to them, get them moving with their dogs on-leash. Keeping them moving keeps everyone's attention, including the dog's, on the training.
- ~ Take time out for slow, calm handling. I found that having students do this when they had first arrived at class was sometimes as beneficial as basic attention games. I had students tether their dogs, sit down, breathe deeply and just handle their dogs gently as other students arrived. The peacefulness in the room was amazing and got class off to a focused start.
- ~ Tell students you will answer deeper questions later and keep the class going. Many times questions can be answered as you work through the class; this will avoid slowing the momentum of the class. Remember to answer their questions though!

Teaching With Acoustical Guidance (Continued from front page)

During the workshop we saw videos of a child learning to tie his shoes, a man improving his golf swing, young gymnasts clicking each other for a specific position and many others. It became obvious that TAGteach would be helpful to us in our dog training classes. How many times have you struggled to help people keep the clicker hand still, keep the treat hand still until after the click, look away from the dog when it barks, stand up straight, step out with a certain foot, keep the leash loose, and on and on.

TAGteach helps people in the way it helps dogs. When clicking, we focus on one behavior only. As we focus on one behavior, others may deteriorate. That's okay. We can get them back. We need both dogs and humans to be able to relax in their performance and enjoy their success. It is under these circumstances that everyone learns best. With the dogs, we provide a treat or a game at times of success. With humans, the feeling of success is usually all that is needed. The expression on the face of the little boy in the video who succeeded in tying a shoe was priceless.

During the workshop, Teresa, who is the founder of TAGteach International, guided us through a variety of activities and discussions to help us with our understanding and individual skills. It was a workshop designed to reach the multiple intelligences we talk about in our Trainers Course. The group included people from out of town, people who were not dog trainers, a graduate student doing related research and members of our own training team. This diversity contributed to our learning and appreciation of the power of TAGteach.

BRAGS & WAGS & New Kids In Town

NEWS FROM WYSIWYG

December 4, 2009 - Dachshund Club of St. Louis - Belleville, IL
Dodger - earned his second AKC Rally Novice leg.

December 5, 2009 - Edwardsville, IL Kennel Club - Belleville, IL
Dodger - Winners Dog for 1 point and Best of Opposite Sex

Linda Schulte

I adopted an 8-year old Treeing Walker Coonhound from the humane society just before Christmas. She was rescued from a puppy mill and adjusting well in her new home with Reuben and I. Her name is Reina (Spanish for "queen")

Kara Grueninger



SEARCH DOG CANINE EMERGENCY MEDICAL FUND

Those of you who know me know that Adam and I are members of a search and rescue unit. For those whom I haven't met yet, we have two Greater Swiss Mountain Dogs, one of which was deliberately selected as a puppy for work with Gateway Search Dogs, a 501(c)(3) organization that helps look for lost, missing, and deceased persons when requested by authorized agencies. We do not charge for our services—all of our members are volunteers.

As volunteers, we incur a lot of expenses during the process of training our canine partners, which I'll go into in more detail presently. If you are not willing to have a hat passed to you in exchange for finding out more about SAR dog training, you should stop reading here.

Raw materials: After thoroughly messing up with the first dog (the "learning dog"), most handlers do a lot of research into bloodlines and start their second dog as a purebred, or purpose crossbred (typically herding breeds) puppy, so that they can ensure proper socialization occurs. Any breed, crossbreed, or mix can do the work assuming a normal nasal cavity, but small dogs may tire pushing through brush and extremely large dogs may tire just from moving themselves around on hilly terrain.

The first training goals with the puppy are agility (without jumps: dogwalk, tunnel/chute, uneven/weird surfaces) building up enthusiasm for the reward toy (or food, but toy greatly preferred), and passing the CGC test. Once the CGC test is passed, and the handler has met his/her personal requirements (non-negligible) to join the unit as a Trainee Member, (s)he can apply for the dog to become a Trainee Canine Member. The dog will be evaluated for temperament and drive. If the dog is accepted, the clock starts ticking. Through a series of deadlines, the dog is expected to be a certified search dog in 18 months.

Then next step in training the dog is to complete the obedience and agility checklist, pass the obedience and agility test, and pass the alert test. The obedience part includes some extra items beyond just novice obedience including a drop on recall, heeling with someone else (through a group of dogs, no less: this is where our Ursa lost her place in the unit), more stringent stays. The standard of precision is not as high as competition obedience; the performance of most dogs would earn a qualifying score in the ring, but definitely not a placement. The agility is not like a competitive agility course—there are no weave poles or pause tables. The handler needs to be able to direct the dog into a tunnel, over an uneven surface with weird footing, and along a plank. The handler must be able to stop the dog and have the dog turn around without falling and without physical contact with the handler. The alert test verifies that the dog will perform his or her alert (typically barking, but could be a down, or recall-refind, or a number of other things) under a number of unusual conditions: when the "victim" is lying face-down on the ground, when (s)he is up above the dog and can't be reached, when (s)he is walking away from the dog, and when (s)he is talking to her/himself. The team has nine months to accomplish these tasks. The unit helps team members train for these items to some degree, but it is expected that they will take outside lessons also.

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SEARCH DOG CANINE EMERGENCY MEDICAL FUND (Continued from previous page)

It is only after getting this solid foundation that the search training begins. At this point, the dog/handler team will specialize in either tracking/trailing, airscent, or remains detection. A tracking/trailing dog will, if given an article with a person's scent on it, follow the path that person went (not necessarily footstep-by-footstep, but more approximately). While it is rare for the dog to track right up to the missing person at the end of the trail, it does help decide where to focus search efforts so that they are closer to where the person is likely to be. An airscent dog can be given an area to clear and should find any living people in that area (including other searchers). These dogs are valuable for ruling out areas where a victim might be, so that search efforts can be focused elsewhere. Cadaver dogs are not usually deployed on short term missing persons cases with the exception of drownings (where they can help pinpoint where divers should look for a body hung up on a submerged snag.) Rather, they will discreetly help out on old missing persons cases as requested by law officers. We have checklists of appropriate search problems to be completed in each of the three disciplines to prepare any team for passing a NIMS-compliant certification. Some of these will turn out to be particularly difficult for one team or another, so teams go to outside seminars to learn more. This phase of the training also takes about 9 months, requires training 4-5 days a week, and is exhausting.

So, after 22 months (assuming the dog and handler passed the CGC at 6 months, and the certification immediately after finishing their discipline checklist), a handler now has an operational search dog. Gateway currently has three, multiple certified, with two more in training who should be certified by the end of 2010, and three others who are working towards certification in 2011. Suppose one of them is injured? Well, we didn't have to suppose... one of them WAS injured, Cooper.

Cooper tore his ACL and was out of commission for 4 months. The vet did predict that he would be able to return to work after rehab, and that is exactly what he has done. But Cooper's case brought to light something that the unit needs: a canine emergency medical fund. This fund is only for operational dogs who are injured but are expected to recover and be able to continue their duties. This fund will not cover routine vet expenses. We are having a raffle to raise funds for the Canine Emergency Health Fund, although donations are also accepted. First prize is one week lodging anywhere in the world through RCI (www.rci.com), second prize is 4 days, 3 nights, at RCI, Branson, MO, and third prize is \$200 of Purina Dog Food. Tickets are \$10 (3 for \$25).

The drawing is March 15, 2010. You can check our website for more information

<http://www.gatewaysearchdogs.org/?It%27s going to THE DOGS>

or email me at achorton@gmail.com.

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Putting on a Great Trial Lucy Bailey, Trail Chairman

Yes, we still call it “The Trial” even though it has evolved from a single obedience trial to two obedience trials and two Rally trials each year. Trial weekend this year is May 22 and 23. Is your dog almost ready to enter? Maybe you will get a qualifying score or even win a trophy! Save the date even if you are not planning to enter – it is a great chance to come out and see some well-trained dogs in action.

Better yet, plan to be part of it all. For Greater St. Louis Training Club the Trial is not only a big production - one of our major events of the year - it is also a tradition. Our club was founded before World War II. This year will be our 64th and 65th Obedience trials. We were one of the first clubs in the area to conduct Rally trials when that new sport was officially adopted by the AKC five years ago. This year we will conduct our 9th and 10th Rally trials. In keeping with our practice of climbing right on board with anything new, this year we will be inviting mixed breed dogs to our trials. Beginning April 1, the AKC rules will change to allow mixed breed dogs who have registered with the AKC to participate in companion dog events. We will be among the first clubs in the area to welcome mixed breed dogs to our competition.

Our relationship with the AKC is an important one. Not only do we hold AKC sanctioned events, but also Greater St. Louis Training Club is an AKC member club. The AKC is a club of clubs and we send a delegate to national meetings who votes on behalf of our club. Just as with all clubs who hold sanctioned events the AKC rules guide what we do and how the event is conducted. Competitors, therefore can earn AKC titles on their dogs at our events.

As with any large endeavor, producing a successful trial involves a lot of effort. At Greater, we like to make this a team effort involving many individuals and turning what might be large jobs for a few into small jobs for many. Some jobs require planning and preparation months before the trial and others require time during the trial. The variety of tasks to be done is large and varied, ensuring that we can find something for just about everyone. Most of the jobs require no knowledge of obedience trials and are easily learned by anyone.

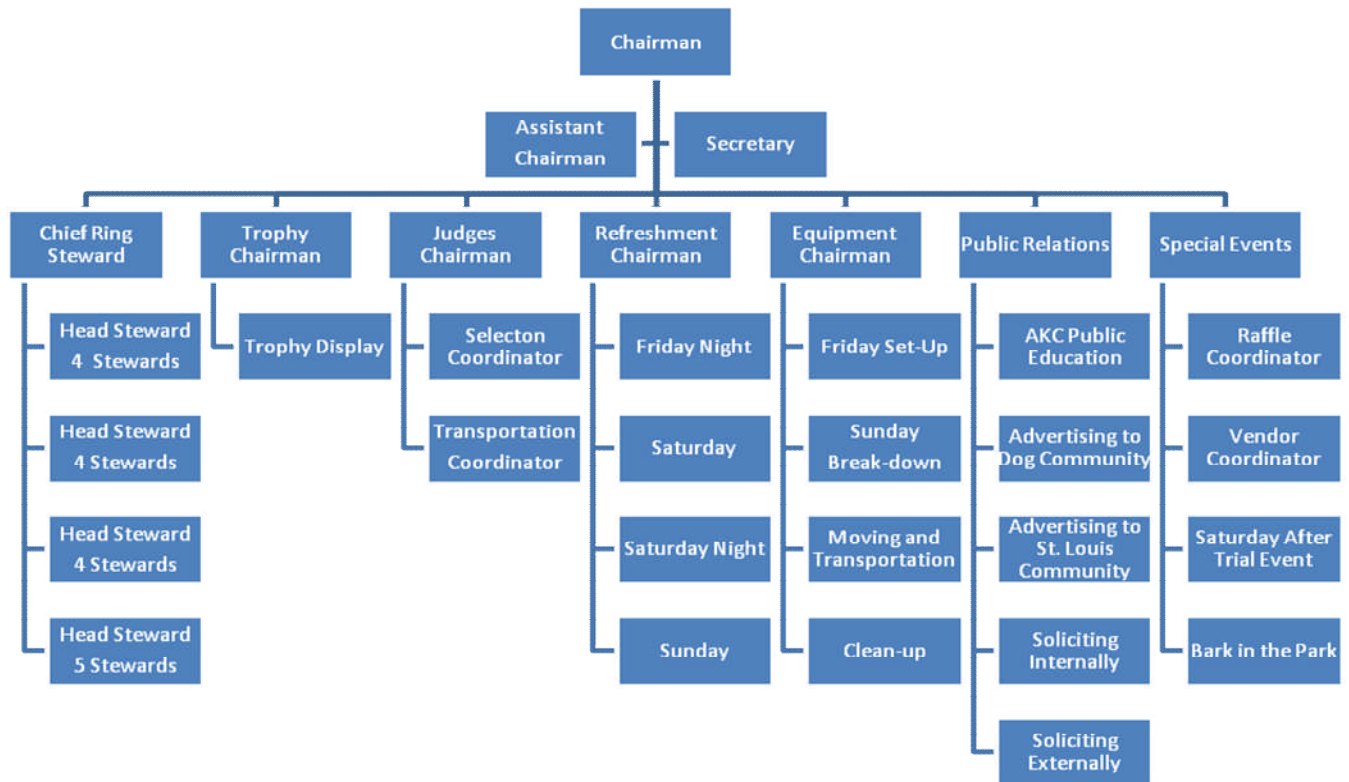
The trial committee is responsible for the event, but all club members are invited and encouraged to pitch in. There are a minimum of 80 discreet jobs that need to be done to conduct the Trial and it helps to divide them into even smaller bites, creating about 116 jobs. The way we get it done is that many individuals help with more than one job. For instance, a single individual might help with soliciting trophy donations in before the trial, setting up ring gating Friday night, sweeping mats at the end of the day Saturday, serving as a ring steward Sunday morning and sweeping mats again Sunday afternoon.

We appreciate this type of service more than we can say. However, not everyone can devote this much time or energy to the event. We are happy to have individuals volunteer in more than one capacity, but we are even happier to have everyone pitch in for just one of the smaller jobs such as those mentioned above, so that we avoid overloading anyone.

The trial committee is structured as follows. The ten positions at the top of the chart are filled for 2010 and these individuals are looking for your support to round out their teams. Please think about what might interest you the most.

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We have many goals for our Trial. We want it to be friendly and welcoming to first time exhibitors and provide the support they need. We want to attract top competitors and draw as many exhibitors from surrounding states as possible. We want to provide an engaging and educational experience for interested spectators. We want our judges to go away feeling we provided the best support and the best hospitality ever.

Customer service is definitely a priority, but we get something from it all, too. We have the opportunity to see well trained dogs in action and to have fun as a team. Our club has the opportunity to maintain our reputation for producing outstanding trials and we hope to generate enough revenue to cover our expenses.

Contact Fran Beezley, Assistant Chairman, (fbeezeley@charter.net) or Lucy Bailey, Trial Chairman, (lebailey@mindspring.com) to find out more about specific jobs or to volunteer.

CHOW CHOWS by Soila Sukupolvi

The chow chow with his regal pose and gorgeous hair that forms a lion's mane around his head is one of the world's most handsome dog breeds. A well-groomed chow chow will turn people's heads wherever he goes.

The chow chow is one of the oldest dog breeds known. The breed originated in China and references describing chow-like dogs can be dated back as far as the 11th century BC. In China, chows were used primarily as guard dogs, but also for hunting and for pulling wagons. Chows were first shown in a dog show in America in 1890. The chow chow has never been an extremely popular breed



but has during all these years had people who have loved this breed above all other breeds just because "no other dog is quite like a chow".

Chows are medium-sized dogs, females weigh 35-55 pounds and males 55-80 pounds. The breed belongs to the Non-sporting group in AKC classification. The specific features of the breed are the blue tongue (and dark inside of the mouth) and the stilted gait due to less angulation of the rear legs than what is seen with other dog breeds. There are two variants of chow chows: the rough-coated and the smooth-coated. The smooth-coated chow, which is not as well-known as his rough-coated brother, also has a double-coat. The main difference is that the overcoat of the smooth-coated chow is made of hard and dense hair and is not as long and soft as the coat of the rough variant. Chow chows come in 5 solid colors; black, red, cinnamon, cream and blue.

Chow puppies, also referred by chow breeders as "chowdren" or "chowlets", are the most adorable dog puppies you can imagine, little soft and round fluffy balls. They make you think of teddy bears walking around.

Chows are the easiest breed to house train, they are naturally very clean dogs who do not like making messes or would never romp in mud. They are low-energy dogs, happy to go for a walk, for a car ride, or just stay in and watch tv or hang out in the yard. They are not very demanding dogs but like to stay close to their people. They do not bark a lot; when you hear a chow barking there usually is a good reason for that. Chows are also very independent dogs and even though they love their owners deeply, they very seldom have separation anxiety and adjust very well to staying home alone while their owners are working.



CHOW CHOWS (continued from the previous page)

However, this is not the easiest breed to have and a chow should never be the first dog you get. Chows were originally bred to be guard dogs and they all have a strong territorial instinct. For that reason, chows need to be very carefully socialized when they are young. Undersocialization is the main reason why chows are often considered aggressive dogs. This is a loyal breed that will protect what is his until he dies. It is the owner's duty to teach the dog to understand what is accepted and which situations do not require any protection. The general idea is that a chow puppy should meet as many people and other dogs and encounter as many new situations as possible before he turns one year old. Chow puppies are so well-behaved when they are young that people often fail to start training at that age. That is a mistake which will show up when the dog enters adolescence. This is an independent, strong-willed, and dominant breed that can be hard to train. Chows are very intelligent but they were not bred to work with people, and they tend to be independent thinkers rather than followers. To train a chow, you have first to earn his respect. If you want a dog that will adore you, you should not get a chow as they often are aloof even with their owners. Chows are not dogs that give a lot of kisses or snuggle with you. They show their affection by staying close by your side.

A chow chow's thick coat requires a lot of maintenance, so if you own a chow you will spend a lot of time grooming and still have hair everywhere in your house. This breed is very sensitive to heat shock and can not do any physical exercise during hot summer days. Also, you should never shave a chow. Their skin is very sensitive to sun, and the thick hair serves as an insulator against the hot air.

Chows have a variety of genetic health problems; hip dysplasia, elbow dysplasia, osteochondritis dissecans, glaucoma, cataracts, entropion and ectropion, hypothyroidism, and tendency to develop gastric cancer.

So what kind of person should get a chow chow? A chow owner needs to be patient, confident and consistent, and have a sense of humor. The owner should also be prepared for taking care of the dog for his whole life (12-14 years). This breed is very loyal and bonds with his owner for life; they often do not do well in shelters and adjusting to new owners can be very slow and difficult.

One of England's pioneer chow breeders once said: "The chow's heart can not be taken by storm, but, once given, it is yours forever." Another chow owner said (and I think all chow lovers agree) that if you have once been lucky enough to be owned by a chow, you will never be happy with another type of a dog.



Obediently Yours

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**Devoted to the training of dogs for
better human companionship**

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Anyone who is interested should join the group of our trainers who will be attending Clicker Expo in Lexington KY, March 19-21, 2010. It is a great opportunity to learn from some of the best and most experienced trainers available, in various disciplines, and all clicker based. You don't need any experience, there are classes for all levels of trainers and pet owners. You can choose to bring a dog or not, and if you register before November 30, there is an earlybird discount. We will be arranging rideshares, and may rent a bus if there are enough of us going. Check the website for more information!

Board

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and Bob Good

www.clickertraining.com/clickerexpo/index.htm?loaditem=registration

Please plan to join us for a weekend of fun and learning!

Cinder Wilkinson-Kenner, CPDT-KA
Director of Training