



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

The Mixed Breed Dog Club By Fran Beezley

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Want to participate in the dog obedience world but you don't have an AKC registered dog? Is your dog one of those special types that is a combination of more than one breed? Or do you have a purebred dog that is disabled and unable to compete at AKC events? I have a solution for you. Join the Mixed Breed Dog Club and join the fun competing with your best friend. Want to know more? Read on!

The Mixed Breed Dog Club of America (MBDCA) is not a new organization. It was founded in 1978 in Washington State and there are chapters in California, Oregon and **ST. LOUIS**. It is a national registry for Mixed Breed dogs, providing many of the same opportunities that the AKC offers for purebreds. One of the main differences is that in order to be a member of the MBDC, your dog must be spayed or neutered, unless there is a note from your veterinarian stating why your dog cannot be sterilized, generally due to medical problems or advanced age.

Once a member of the club, you and your mixed breed may compete in obedience, rally, conformation, tracking and more, and you can earn the same type of titles that AKC dogs do. Once a year, the St. Louis Chapter holds an Obedience Trial where you and your dog can earn ribbons, trophies and legs toward titles. They have Obedience (Novice through Utility), Rally (Novice through Excellent) and Conformation. This year the trial will be held May 30th at the Westinn Kennels in Wentzville. Throughout the rest of the year mixes may earn legs at Fun Matches and Show and Goes, if there is a Mixed Breed approved judge available.

Once a year, around Halloween, the MBDC of St. Louis meets at a local nursing home where we dress the dogs and entertain the residents. Then some of the residents are chosen as judges and get to award small prizes to the owners and dogs for best costume. Afterwards, we visit with the residents and/or do obedience demonstrations. At this time, we also have a raffle. The profits from the raffle are donated to a local animal organization.

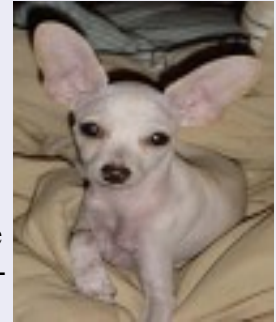
If you are interested in having more fun with your wonderful mix, check out the MBDCA web site www.mbdca.org to find out more about us and get an application. For more information on our local chapter, you can contact Phyllis Massa-Busch at huskylady@centurytel.net (she's the secretary) or Audrey Edwards (president) at nursedog@sbcglobal.net. We would love to have you join us.

IN THE PARK

BY DEBBIE WOLFF

Chihuahua

The Chihuahua is the world's smallest breed of dog, but it makes a spirited pet for any size home. The history of the Chihuahua is somewhat controversial. Several theories of its origin abound, including one that this breed may have existed in Egypt as long ago as 3,000 years. Another theory is that this breed started in China, and it was brought to the New World by Spanish traders. It is believed it was then crossed with other small, native dogs. The third theory asserts that the dog was created in Central and South America, and that it descended from a native dog called "Techichi." The Techichi was a small, mute dog sometimes used in sacrificial ceremonies in the Toltec religion. Apparently it was believed that a small red dog could guide the soul to the underworld, so every Aztec family was known to keep such a dog



The breed is alert and graceful with a rounded skull and large, flaring ears. Smooth coats are soft and come in any color. The long coat may be flat or slightly curly; with a ruff on the neck and a full, plumed tail. Preferred weight ranges from 2 to 4 pounds. Grooming and exercise needs are easily managed. A weekly brushing and a couple of brief daily walks or playtimes will keep this breed happy. Despite their diminutive size, Chihuahuas are hardy and surprisingly long-lived. They may live well into their teen years. The smooth coat needs some protection from the cold in winter if the dog is exercised outdoors. Chihuahuas are excellent watchdogs and are best suited to families with older children who can handle them appropriately. They need

good and consistent training otherwise they can be very strong willed. These little powerhouses need rules and affection. They can be possessive and protective of one individual if not routinely handled by all members of the family.

The Chihuahua was the spokes dog for a popular Mexican restaurant and has been the recent star of the big screen and is very popular with the trendy Hollywood crowd because of their small size and enjoyment of being carried around by their owners. I am not sure how they or any dog feels about being dressed up but that is up to the human to decide.

So whether they began in Egypt, China or South America, these pint size pooches are cute and charming yet strong and protective and could make a good addition to your pack if you're looking to add a new member.



TRAINING TIPS

BY DIXIE LEHMANN, CPDT

Get a Fast, Happy Recall Using a Rattle Can

Rattle cans are wonderful for teaching dogs to come running when they're loose in the yard or the house. Find a small can or plastic container; I use Pounce cat treat cans. Empty the can and then fill it with about a dozen hard treats – enough so that it makes a loud rattle when you put the top back on and shake the can.

You will need to “charge” the rattle can, the way you charge a battery. To do this, sit down with the can and a pile of tiny but delicious treats on a table you can easily reach, with your dog near you. Hold the can in one hand. Rattle it, then *immediately* give the dog a treat. Rattle; then treat. Rattle; then treat. Repeat this a dozen times, then put the can and the treats away. Later in the day, have another session; continue with two sessions a day for two or three days. Please note that you don't say anything to the dog while you're doing this (though **do** smile at him!). We don't want to confuse the issue with words; we just want the dog to learn that the sound of the rattle can means that a treat is available.

You will know that the rattle can is “charged” when you can rattle it when your dog is distracted, and he turns and comes to you right away. **Always** reward this behavior with a treat. Now you can start taking treats directly out of the can. The reason we didn't do that when you were “charging” the can is that we didn't want a time lag between when the dog heard the rattle and when it got the treat. But now your dog knows it will get a treat when it reaches you, so you can keep the treats in the can.

Wait until your dog is out of the room, then rattle the can. Does he come racing happily to you, looking for his treat? Then the can is fully charged, and you can start using it. When your dog is outside and you want him to come in, don't yell for him; pick up the can and rattle it hard. Most dogs can't resist, and will come racing to you. **Always** give your dog a treat for responding to the rattle can, even if he was digging a giant hole outside when you called him in; even if it took him awhile to come to you; even if you just found a pile of chewed socks; even if he shakes himself in the doorway and flings mud all over you. **Coming to the sound of the rattle can *must* earn a treat and a smile or pat from you every time, or it will lose its power to bring your dog to you.**

You can make the rattle can even more effective by sometimes using it to call your dog inside, giving him a treat and pat, and letting him go back outside if he wants to (“Go play!”). If he learns that coming to the sound of the can not only earns a treat but also doesn't always mean he has to stay inside, he'll be even more inclined to come running every time.

Since the sound of the rattle never changes, a rattle can works just as well for the children of the family as it does for the adults, and for visitors and the dog sitter as well. It's easy to train and fun to use. Give it a try!

Note: When I was traveling in Guatemala I saw many loose horses grazing on the roadside or trotting along on business of their own. My guide told me that the owners turn them loose to feed themselves, and when they need their horses, they rattle a coffee can full of corn and honey. Each horse knows the sound of its owner's rattle can, and comes running for its corn and honey treat!

Things I Would Do Differently

Waverley has been the first dog that I have trained myself from scratch and therein lies the catch. We have been in some form of training since she was a pup and had had her vaccinations. I thought I was being a responsible owner in that way. I think we will be in training for the rest of our lives, but the most important thing that I have learned from her is that you can accept and ask for help.

If someone offers to come over to “act as a visitor” for an hour, invite them over and practice greetings at the door, practice having your dog settle out of the way while you have a cup of coffee and leave your dog with them and go out the door, etc., etc. If no one offers to be your friendly stranger you can always ask, and with your membership to G.S.L.T.C. you have a list of people to pester and you could offer to do something similar in return. My new kid-pup on the block is going on his first boxer play date with Danny and Lindy tomorrow. What is it they say? It takes a village to raise a dog, fur-child, child...or something like that.

Mary Duncan

*What would **you** do differently with your new dog? Send us your thoughts for upcoming issues of Obediently Yours.*

GoneBut Not Forgotten

Crystal was born in October 2007. She came to the Humane Society of Missouri at 2 weeks of age along with 5 siblings. She was flea infested and dirty but she was also lucky because she was rescued from a Pit Bull fighting ring here in Missouri. Her life would most likely have been short and tragic if she had remained where she was. Fortunately after arriving at the Humane Society she got great veterinary care, she went to puppy classes to learn to play appropriately with other puppies, and she became my foster dog -- then she became my adopted dog.

I was taken by her quick mind and zest for life which she often demonstrated by literally throwing herself at anyone she knew or anything she found interesting. Although Crystal did not manage to pass her CGC test (she kept failing remaining calm while meeting a stranger and a new dog), she accomplished a lot in her brief life. She completed Family Dog 2 and almost finished level 3. She participated in behavior evaluations and she was an ambassador at the Humane Society of Missouri's Pit Bull Awareness Day. She went with me to the Karen Pryor Academy and learned many tricks. The one I liked best was teaching her to read a small cardboard sign that said “Roll.” Crystal died on Feb.

8th from auto-immune complications that were most likely due to a rare tick-borne disease affecting Pit Bulls. She is still loved and missed. -Lorraine Martinez, CPDT, KPA CTP



WELCOME TO OUR CLUB

March 2009

Chris Bahr - Collie Mix, Husky Mix
Darcie Brownback - Labrador Retriever
Kim Conway - Lab Mix
Deanna Dopplick & Todd Williams - Pomeranian
Karen Finley - Lab/Beagle Mix
Dawn Ostendorf - GSD, Miniature Poodle

February 2009

Rita McCoy - Miniature American Eskimo

January 2009

Jim Maritz - Border Collie
Sylvia Van Lopik - Dachshund/Spaniel Mix

November 2008

Helen & Phil Abbott - German Shepherds
Linda Medlin and Anthony & Nicholas Ostendorf - Chocolate Labrador

October 2008

Jan Starke - Australian Cattle Dog, Newfoundland, Mixed Breeds

September 2008

Debbie Wolff - Yellow Labrador, Black Labrador Mix

August 2008

Susan Fishbein - Border Collie
Tarik Hadzic & Michael Mastroprancesco - Redbone Coonhound/Beagle, Beagle/Pointer
Mary Roccio & Tim Hanfeld - Chihuahua

July 2008

Gisele & Fernando del Valle - Boxer Mix
Mimi Slater - Maltese, Schnauzer Mix

June 2008

Lois & Chris Southerland - Whippet
Carol Wray & Margaret Stephenson - Border Collie, Shepherd Mix
Vanessa Heil-Chapdelaine & Hunter Lanier - Aussie/Golden Mix



BEHAVIOR CORNER

Barking In Class by Cinder Wilkinson-Kenner, CPDT

“Shh, Shush, HUSH!” “No bark, Hush, BE QUIET!” “He doesn’t do this at home, I swear!” “Why does he bark so much?”

These are things we hear often in group classes, particularly in the beginning levels. Most of these poor folks drop out before they get to the upper level classes! But it doesn’t have to end that way. Barking in class can be very stressful for the dog, the owner, the instructor, and the other dogs and handlers in class, but there are strategies we can use to make classes work for everyone.

There are many reasons that dogs bark. Some of these include stress, fear, territorial displays, attention seeking, frustration, boredom, over stimulation, and anxiety. The most common barking types we see in classes are stress or anxiety barking, over stimulation barking, and attention seeking, or demand, barking. It is relatively easy to tell which of these a dog is experiencing by checking the body language the dog is exhibiting.

If the dog is pacing, leaving sweaty paw prints, panting excessively, licking his lips and nose frequently, hiding, constantly scanning the room for movement, or has a low tail and ear set, the dog is showing signs of stress, anxiety, or fear. In this case, it is likely that he cannot control his barking, and isn’t even particularly aware that he’s barking. The barking is likely to be a physiological response to the fear, anxiety, or stress, and punishment is likely to increase the dog’s stress, thereby increasing the barking rather than decreasing it. In these cases, classical conditioning is the best strategy to employ. Just work on changing the association the dog has with the stressor (class, people, other dogs, etc.). This involves giving lots of treats when the dog is in the presence of the stressor, and stopping when the stressor recedes or the dog moves away from the stressful situation. Sometimes a small paper cup filled with peanut butter or spray cheese can be enough to occupy this dog, give him something new to do instead of barking, and help him form a new association with class.


If the dog appears to be comfortable, confident, and able to work with the handler, but barks at the handler when the handler looks away, is too slow with the treat delivery, or otherwise removes attention from the dog, the dog is most likely to be attention seeking, or demand, barking. This is a dog who has learned what works! This strategy has worked for her in the past, and she is “trained” to bark for faster service. This is a good situation in which to have the handler withhold treats, eye contact, and attention until the dog is quiet, and work on that specifically. Handlers may notice some previously trained behaviors start to fall apart for a short time, since the dog is used to getting immediate delivery of rewards, and may show some frustration in not getting immediate satisfaction for her efforts. These can be great dogs to introduce to the clicker, as it will give the handler a new and more clear communication tool, and the dog will quickly pick up that the clicker NEVER clicks when she is barking! These dogs can also be good candidates for “time-outs” outside the door without the owner until they can calm themselves.

The over stimulated dog is unmistakable. He is so excited that he can’t stop barking, leaping, spinning, and lunging toward every person, dog, and object in the room. The handler is usually dangling at the end of the lead, and the dog is completely oblivious to him or her. This dog watches everything, sniffs the ground, the air, and everything he can reach, leaps, stands on his back feet and waves his legs out in front while hanging from the tether, and sometimes is quite mouthy. This dog is also having a physiological response to outside stimuli and may have no idea that he is barking, lunging, and generally exhibiting an amazing lack of self-control. This dog is as stressed as the fearful or anxious dog, just in a different way. Barriers may help this dog keep attention on its handler. Many of these dogs can be re-directed with a fuzzy toy or fleece tug rope, and can chomp on the toy as a stress outlet instead of barking. Controlled “play breaks” in which the owner plays with the dog with a toy or tug rope and works on cued starts and stops can help this dog learn some self control. A peanut butter filled cup can also be helpful with these dogs.

Whether you are an instructor or an owner of one of these barking dogs, try to stay calm and positive, decide which strategy you want to try first, and keep trying until something works! If none of these strategies work for the particular dog, he or she may have a threshold which is greater than the space allowed by the classroom structure, and may need more help than our Family Dog classes can offer. In these cases, ask for a behavior evaluation and a possible referral to our classes for special needs dogs, Shy Dog and Reactive Dog.

There are many useful protocols for working successfully with all of these dogs. It is vital to get the owners the help they need to achieve successful partnerships with their dogs.

WAGS AND BRAGS

- GSLTC Trainer **Bob Good** passed his test to become a CGC Evaluator. Bob teaches Puppy and Family Dog classes, and will use his Evaluator status to help Puppy 2 students work toward the new AKC S.T.A.R. Puppy certification. Way to go Bob!
 - Finally, Rascal, my 5 year-old puppy mill Fox Terrier has found his calling! Attached is a photo of him on a recent walk at Horseshoe Lake State Park. He managed to escape off of his leash and found a mouse. The mouse ran down into a small hole and Rascal decided to try and dig him out. It was so much fun that I couldn't resist letting him dig for a few minutes. We are so proud of our new mouse hunter! Linda C
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- Angel has been awarded the following so far this year: MB-VX3 - Mixed Breed Versatility Excellent level 3 (for her involvement in obedience, training demos, workshops, etc.) 2 legs in Novice Obedience through ASCA. She received her 3rd MB-RAE leg. Fran
 - Pardner, Kathy Hackmann's German Shepherd Dog, received his Rally Excellent (RE) title January 24, 2009. He competed for an "insurance leg" the next day, and he took first place in that Rally Excellent class. Kathy Hackmann
 - Rezzie had 5 perfect pups on Valentine's Day. We have 3 boys and 2 girls. Rezzie is a graduate of Family Dog 3 trained by my mother, Skip. Val
 - The Harrison's Ch Winbuck's Wheel D'Fortune, a/k/a "Ferris" completed his championship in mid-December at Skokie, IL, winning a 5-pt major and Best of Breed. The next day he was moved up to BOB competition and also won Best of Breed! Ferris was BOB both days at Belleville, IL. After the Franklin, TN/Tulahoma shows this weekend, Ferris will be working hard in obedience to compete in Novice B at the Cardigan Welsh Corgi National Specialty in Topeka, KS in mid-April. Then it's on to a CDX, we hope! Winbuck's Ghost of a Rose is now a champion (pending AKC approval), having earned her final two points at Belleville, IL. "Corey" will be bred in mid-March with some fantastic pups due mid-May. From Charles & Sue Harrison, Winbucks/Winstonwil Cardigan Welsh Corgis. www.inkmkr.com/corgis
 - Many congratulations to GSLTC's three graduates of the Karen Pryor Academy: Lucy Bailey CPDT, Lorraine Martinez CPDT, and Megan Atkinson CPDT. The KPA course is very challenging, and passing is an accomplishment to be proud of. To check out what's involved, go here: <http://www.karenpryoracademy.com/dog-trainer-program>
 - Prince Ostendorf, 16 week old mini-poodle owned by Dawn Ostendorf and Linda Medlin, graduated Puppy Kindergarten I and is now enrolled in Puppy Kindergarten II.
 - Duke Medlin, chocolate lab owned by Linda Medlin graduated Family Dog 2 and is now enrolled in Superdog.

The Practical Person Gets Ready for a Wet Winter

By Celeste Walsen

Introducing the following article

In the Pacific Northwest, winter is the wet season. Here in the Midwest we get much of our rain, with attendant muddy paws, in the spring. This article was published for winter in Seattle, but I felt the best time to reprint it for our use was now, in March. While a few of the suggested sources for materials are local to Seattle, in general I think the article is full of great ideas for coping with house dogs in wet weather. – Dixie Lehmann, CPDT

It's coming. We all know it is: the rain, the puddles, the mud. Remember standing in the dark with sodden feet waiting for your dog to "hurry," trying to clean muddy paw prints off the carpet (or furniture), apologizing for the mess in the backseat?

Winter can be less trouble this year. Here are simple things you can do now to make this the easiest winter yet with your dog!

Towels

The first priority before winter arrives is to stock up on dog towels and deploy them where they will be needed. Dog towels can be retired human towels from your household, garage sale finds, or inexpensive purchases from Value Village or Goodwill. The important thing about dog towels is to have enough – which means having more than you can imagine needing. Put a big wicker basket by your door and pile in the clean, unfolded dog towels. The basket full of colorful towels will make a unique decorating statement.

Entry

Prepare an easy landing spot for your wet dog just inside the door. A large bath mat makes a good flooring for this area; it is absorbent, washable, and has a waterproof backing to protect your floor. Your dog can sit or stand on the mat to be dried off, or can at least hit the mat first with his muddy paws as he dashes in.

Crate

Having a crate near the door is an excellent idea. A wire crate with another bath mat inside as bedding will allow your dog to air dry without giving him a chance to towel himself off on your couch. If you put your crate on an upside down bath mat (fluffy side down), it will be easy to slide the crate over a hard surface floor to be near the door when you need it.

Drying spot

Think about where your dog could safely wait outdoors to be cleaned off if possible. If you have a heated garage, this might be a good place for a wet dog to dry off. Otherwise, find a place on a covered porch or in the carport where you can secure a short nylon leash. When you return from a walk, clip the secured leash on to your dog's collar, and leave him there briefly while you go inside to take off your raincoat and gather your dog towels. Then you can return outside to dry the muddy paws while your dog is confined on the tied leash.

Dry footing

Create a small area just outside your back door where your dog can relieve himself without getting muddy. The deluxe solution would be a fenced dog run, floored with play chips. (Non-splintering wood particles designed for children's play areas. Available at many local landscaping firms, including Pacific Topsoils, 800-884-7645, where they cost \$27.50 per cubic yard + a \$78.00 delivery charge. And worth every penny.) But even a small area that you cover with gravel, bark, or mulch will give your dog a place to go in the worst weather, when all he wants to do is finish his business and get back indoors.

Trimming

Groom your dog to help minimize the amount of mud and debris that is dragged into your house. Try to keep the hair on the bottom of the feet clipped regularly. One simple way to do this is to use a curved, blunt-tipped pair of scissors available at most drugstores. These are sold as either baby nail clippers or as personal care scissors. (A recent purchase at Bartell's was \$4.89 including tax.) The curved shape of the scissors allows you to easily trim close to the dog's footpads. If you have a multiple-dog household, it may pay for you to make the splurge and buy an electric clipper to do the job quickly. (The same Oster clipper that your vet and groomer use is widely available for a little over \$100.)

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Indoor exercise

Learn some games and activities to keep your dog happy and exercised indoors during the winter. Many dog owners play hide and seek with their dogs, or “find the hidden treat.” And some dog owners delight in sitting calmly in the living room while their dog races madly up and down the stairs to fetch a toy, completely wearing himself out. A winter agility class can be fun for you and your dog, even if you never plan to compete. A trick class can give your dog something different to think about also.

Toys

Putting all of your dog’s dry food in a toy dispenser, instead of in a bowl, will insure enthusiasm for some indoor exercise. The Tricky Treat Ball by Omega Paw is a dog food dispensing toy that is quiet on hardwood floors. (Available for \$14.99 at www.petsmart.com.) There are many other treat-dispensing toys that will keep your indoor dog happy.

Cleaning

Knowing that no plan is perfect, prepare yourself to clean up the inevitable muddy messes as easily as possible. Lay in a good supply of your favorite cleaning supplies, and consider trying something new. The Sh-Mop (available at www.florstor.com as well as many other stores) uses washable terry cloth covers to clean your floor. These can be washed with your dog towels each week, and you will always have a clean mop.

Car

Get your car ready for the (possibly wet) dog passenger. If you are lucky enough to have a van or station wagon with a crate in the back, line the crate with dog towels or a bath mat. And don’t forget to line the “landing area” in front of the crate door also, where the muddy feet will land first. If your dog rides in the back seat, buy a couple of old bedspreads at Value Village or Goodwill to cover your upholstery. There are also a number of commercial products available that have a waterproof backing as well, such as the waterproof seat cover at www.orvis.com.

Stay dry

Prepare to keep yourself dry and clean while you take care of your dog’s needs throughout the rainy season. The first necessary item is waterproof footwear that is easy to put on and take off, so that you are never tempted to just run out and do your scooping in your dress shoes (just this once!). Plastic clogs of all sorts can meet the need. Anywear Clogs are especially popular, as their bottom does not have treads that are difficult to keep clean. (These clogs are often available at great prices on eBay). Find a place by the door to hang your raincoat conveniently, as you may need it at unexpected times. A golf umbrella can be handy, as it is large enough to cover you and your dog.

Darkness

Remember that winter in the Pacific Northwest is dark as well as wet. Many of us find that the only time we can be outdoors with our dogs is before it is light in the morning or after it is dark in the evening (or afternoon). If you walk your dog, a reflective vest (for you) will make both of you much safer. You are taller than your dog, so the reflection can be seen at a greater distance, and you will have less resistance to wearing a new article of clothing. Many local sports stores sell vests that can be put on over your raincoat, or you can order one from www.roadrunnersports.com.

Flashlight

There are times that you will need a flashlight outdoors, so check now that you have a one handy with batteries that work. Extra batteries would be a definite plus, purchased now, before you are crawling around outside looking for your keys that you have dropped. A deluxe solution would be an actual headlamp (for backyard use only), so that your hands could be free for scooping or other necessary activities – the ones at www.rei.com look great.

Put in a little effort now, while the days are mostly sunny and dry, to get ready for the rain. In the middle of the winter you will be glad that you did.

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SEARCH AND RESCUE BY AMY HORTON, CPDT

Search and Rescue (SAR) Dogs are used throughout the world to help locate missing or deceased persons in a variety of man-made or natural disasters. While some organizations have strict rules about which dogs and breeds are permitted to be trained as SAR dogs, many nationally certified SAR handlers are known for visiting animal shelters to select their canine partners, and there is really no physical reason any medium- to large- size, non-brachycephalic (non-short-snouted-dog such as a Pug) dog (provided you can maintain its coat burr-free, which can be a challenge in some terrain) cannot make a SAR dog. The most commonly encountered purebred SAR dogs are German Shepherd, Labrador Retriever, Bloodhound, Belgian Malinois, Australian Shepherd, Border Collie, Beagle, Chesapeake Bay Retriever, Belgian Tervuren/Shepherd, and Golden Retriever.

SAR dogs can be broken down into the following categories:

- Tracking dogs follow the exact path taken by the missing person, footstep by footstep.
- Trailing dogs follow the general direction of the missing person, but may veer from the exact position depending upon wind, water, temperature, and humidity among other variables.

Both tracking and trailing dogs will be started on a scent article belonging to the person they are trying to find and can be used to pick out a particular person from among a crowd, a task called scent discrimination. Some other dogs are also able to perform this task.

- Air scent dogs locate any living human scent. Our bodies are constantly losing thousands of skin cells, which are broken down by small microorganisms which feed on them, releasing gasses and vapors into the air around them. Dogs' noses can easily detect these vapors from large distances, and our air scent dogs can easily lead us to these sources.
- Area Search is done by air scent teams to quickly find anyone in a given area. If a dog is trained in scent discrimination they can find a single person out of many in the same area. If not, then the dog will just be sent back to work to find another "victim" after the first person is found until every person in the area is accounted for.
- Disaster Search is done following man made or natural disasters. The dogs can search tornado debris and complete or partially collapsed buildings. Medium-sized and more nimble dogs are preferred over larger and heavier coated dogs.
- Cadaver Search is the search for deceased victims in many different scenarios. This could include drowning, crime scene, disaster after live victims have been found, etc. Sometimes, separate "water cadaver" units and certifications are specified to distinguish units with a higher level of training who may be ready to deploy for more missions.
- Human Remains Detection (HRD) is a special category of cadaver search, and requires a higher level of training from the dog and handler. HRD detection is mainly for the location of old bones at a possible crime scene.
- Avalanche dog is a type of disaster dog that is specifically trained to locate persons under several feet of snow and debris. Larger breeds such as the German Shepherd Dog, Bernese Mountain Dog, and Saint Bernard have historically been used for this purpose.

Most dogs will give a natural alert when they make a find, but you, the handler may not know it. It is important to choose a trained alert which your dog finds easy to perform (so that it does not break down), but that is not self-rewarding. Keep in mind that one of these days (or nights) you will be out on a search when it's really hot, you're tired, you haven't been given adequate time to cover your area, you suspect the victim hasn't been in this area anyway, and your dog is shutting down. If your dog does not alert in the area, how certain are you that it's because the victim isn't there? Are you willing to bet someone's life on that certainty? By the time you've certified your dog with a National Incident Management System (NIMS)-compliant organization such as NASAR (National Association for Search and Rescue http://www.nasar.org/nasar/downloads/Canine_Certification_Programs_2006_3.2.pdf) or FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency <http://www.fema.gov/emergency/usr/canineready.shtm>), you should have a good idea of the conditions under which your dog's alert breaks down so you can make those calls.

- Recall/refind

When the victim is found, the dog runs to the handler, possibly barking, then runs back to the victim. Repeat as necessary until handler finds victim.

- Bringsel

This special item attached to the dog's collar can be carried in the dog's mouth when the dog makes a find. But Watch Out, All You Labs Out There! You only mouth the bringsel when you make a find and not ever any other time!

- Bark and hold

Sounds simple, but the dog needs to bark loud enough and long enough to be heard over traffic, rustling leaves, and any other noise in the area that might interfere. This alert breaks down easily in heat sensitive dogs.

- Down

Dog lies down in front of person/source.

- Nudge

Dog nudges person/source with nose or paw.

NEW KIDS IN TOWN

The Lehmann household welcomes: **Stormylee's HeyJude TreeStarr**, an Australian Shepherd. Jude joins Dixie, Kennett, Paul, Alice, and Jack, as well as Aussie Fly, Papillons Leo and Piper, cat Cora, and canary Kip.



Claire Jillian Eash was born Jan 30th at around 9 am. Her parents are GSLTC trainers Kyle and Marisa Eash. She joins older brother Preston, (see other photo) boxers Girlie and Dozer, and cat Yippie.

(Below) Preston Eash, son of Kyle & Marisa Eash, Trainers.



5 Valentine Vizsla Babies!

Rezzie had 5 perfect pups on Valentine's Day. We have 3 boys and 2 girls. ..Val



New kid on the block —Mary Duncan's Finn

Hi, I'm **Findlay Basil Shackleton**, though my friends just call me Finn. I was listed with my rescue group as a 9-10 month-old black lab, but I really can't tell you much about what I spent all that time doing. In fact, sometimes in the last week I haven't remembered that I am meant to be house trained either, or maybe I was not altogether sure for which house I was trained. I just moved in with Waverley and Mary Duncan after spending a week at a Lab Rescue. I am going to go to my first Family Dog class on March 14th.

Waverley has told me it should be lots of fun, since I like meeting other dogs, but that Mary will try to make it as boring as possible by constantly trying to get my attention, though the food will be good.



Obediently Yours

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

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LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

After a hiatus of almost five years, the club is pleased to announce that our newsletter, **Obediently Yours** is back in production. Those of you who remember the old newsletter will notice the format is different. The plan is to publish electronically, with issues coming out quarterly, at least in the beginning. For those who do not have access to electronic mail, hard copies will be sent via the US Postal Service. The copy editor is Dixie Lehmann and the Editor in Chief is Linda Medlin. There are others who plan on contributing articles on a regular basis, but it is my hope that all members of the club will consider themselves columnists and feel free to contribute to the Newsletter.

All who have contributed to this first edition hope that it will give us another link to one another and provide useful information on training issues, current brags, club events and whatever other information club members find useful or entertaining.

I am pleased to be a small part of it, and hope that with the efforts of all club members, the Newsletter will once again be a viable part of the Greater St Louis Training Club.

Sincerely,

Nancy Roth