



Ruff Notes

President: Marilyn Runyan, mrnyan@cruzio.com **Editor:** Brenda Shepard, tashina1@sbcglobal.net

March Events:

- 3/06 Board Meeting
- 3/07 Watsonville Classes Start
- 3/08 Pet Pals, Soquel Classes Start
- 3/09 Capitola Classes Start
- 3/14 Conformation Classes Start
- 3/18 General Membership Meeting
- 3/21 Ruff Notes Deadline
- 3/25 VST Setup, Fort Ord
- 3/26 VST, Fort Ord

April Events:

- 4/03 Board Meeting
- 4/18 Ruff Notes Deadline
- 4/25 Watsonville Final Classes
- 4/26 Pet Pals, Soquel Final Classes
- 4/27 Capitola Final Classes

May Events:

- 5/01 Board Meeting
- 5/09 Watsonville Classes Start
- 5/10 Pet Pals, Soquel Classes Start
- 5/11 Capitola Classes Start
- 5/16 Conformation Classes Start
- 5/20 General Membership Meeting,
Picnic
- 5/23 Ruff Notes Deadline

President's Waggin' Tale:

Can it already be time to celebrate Valentine's Day? I don't know about all of you, but I plan to celebrate with the current love of my life, Bradie. I hope you included your special furry person in your celebratory plans.

On February 5 AOCNC presented their annual workshop. Special thanks to Denise Panzich for stepping in so graciously to replace the ailing Dale Root to judge our Open ring.

Pam squired Bradie through Open a couple of times in preparation for their attempts to get a CDX soon. I wish Bradie respected me enough to do the out of sight sits and downs instead of following me because she wants her mommy. Bradie did do some meandering during the heeling and went for a piece of lint. She has been known to check out a dried puddle of paint to see if it might be a cookie. On her first sit someone dropped some boards in an adjacent ring, and Bradie got up and thought she might leave the ring. Pam caught up with her, gave her a collar correction, put her back where she belonged, and gave her a swat on the nose. That was worth the price of admission as she did her stay properly and then the second time through did it the way Auntie Pam wanted her to do it.

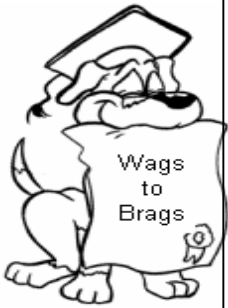
We have a big event scheduled for October 28. You may well ask why we are announcing it so early. We will be celebrating our 40th anniversary as a club, so this will be something special. There has often been a confusion as to when the club should celebrate its anniversaries as there are various dates involved in our history. In cleaning out the President's files, I discovered a letter which indicated that several people got together in 1966 to form the club; the club was incorporated in 1967. So the Board felt that celebrating in 2006 was the most appropriate. This event will not be affiliated with any other club event-no meeting, just our celebration. We anticipate celebrating in a restaurant and having some type of celebratory gift. This date is one which has very few AKC trials in close proximity, so most of you can attend.

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Hot Dog Award

There is no Hot Dog award this month!

There is no Agility Hot Dog Award this month!



On January 20, 2006 at the Rose City Classic dog show in Portland, Oregon our 8 month old Rottweiler bitch puppy Becca (Pfeffer-Schloss High Society) was first in the 6-9 month class and Winners Bitch for a 4 point major! She is owned by Gary and Debbie Green and handled by Debbie Green. It was the first show for Becca and Debbie.

Daisy went Best of Breed at the Cow Palace on Sunday !! My bitch puppy, Roxie, went Winners Bitch for 2 points on Sat. My bitch puppy, Sammy, went Winners Bitch for 2 points on Sun. at Cow Palace !! It was a GREAT weekend Owned and handled by Carol Howton

On 2/28/2006 at the Golden State German Shepard Dog Club of San Jose, Logan Shepard, handled Diamond in conformation for his first Jr.'s competition and received 1st place. Owned by the Shepard family

Brags

President's Waggin' Tale

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We will need someone to take charge of this event. This will involve locating a restaurant, determining a menu, contacting members through the phone committee to get signups, collecting money for reservations, and selecting some celebratory gift (possibly using 1-2 members to give input). Decorations are a possibility with help from a gifted member. So if you are interested in chairing this event, the Board will be eternally grateful.

The Nominating Committee has been formed with Marilyn Runyan, Debbie Green, and Dani Nelson charged with the responsibility of putting together a Board for next year. This task has been made much simpler with 7 of the current Board members indicating a willingness to return next year in the same positions. One additional Board member may also return, but work considerations are a possible complication. At most we will be seeking two willing members to take on the open positions. If you are approached, please give serious consideration to supporting the club by accepting the invitation. Those we ask are members we feel are well qualified to handle the position.

Sadly, we have to report that Bev Cobb passed on recently. Pat Alvarez had a heart attack recently, followed by triple bypass surgery. We hear he is doing well.

Winterset King Alexander C.D.X., C.G.C.

2-23-94 to 1-27-06

Little Alex

In March of '94, I had asked Pam to go with me to pick out a puppy. Pam wanted me to get the one that LeVaun Sheetz picked out, Alex's brother Robbie. But when I saw this cute little boy puppy with a full white collar, Pam knew she had lost me. I fell in love with him at first sight. He was so cute and full of energy. Then along came Mike and the two of them did everything and went everywhere together.

Little Alex saw me through a lot of happiness and sadness over the years. I thought I would never get a C.D.X. on him, but with LeVaun's help we did and it was one of the happiest days of our lives. Showing both Little Alex and Mike in Brace at the Obedience Trials was so much fun for me, we often competed with Crissy for 4th place and lost to a higher placement even as high as 1st place.

Now it seems like Mike and I are at a loss without him, we miss him so much. Those that knew Alex will miss having him come up to see if they had any "cookies" for him!

Love BG and Mike

POLITICAL SAVVY 101

Irene Quesnoy

I met with my Contra Costa County Supervisor Mark DeSalnier and his Chief of Staff Gregory Bedard on November 14. What follows is a shorter summary of what I discussed with him. I also left a copy of my complete list of concerns to be copied and distributed to the rest of the supervisors.

ORDINANCE NO. 2005-24 Article 416-12.4 Dangerous Animals

These are my concerns with the ordinance. I have noted the ten I have on the copy of the ordinance and have also identified and discussed them by identifying page and section numbers on these pages.

**Irene Quesnoy
11/10/05**

(Concern # 1)

Section 416-12.402 Potentially dangerous animal

_____“Potentially” is a very general word and could be interpreted differently by different people. “Potential” could develop into a breed specific issue with one incident of a dog of a particular breed labeling the entire breed as “potentially dangerous” and subject to enforcement under this ordinance. A more precise word would be “demonstrated to be dangerous.”

(Concern # 2)

(d). Any animal, when unprovoked, has engaged in **any behavior** that constitutes a physical threat of bodily harm to a person or domestic animal or **poses an immediate threat to public safety** (**Ords. 2005-24 Para2.87-74**)

_____“Any behavior” again is very vague and could have as many different interpretations as there are people witnessing the particular dog behavior. An overly friendly dog attempting to greet a fearful person may be interpreted as an aggressive act. The actions of the owner giving a leash correction to prevent the Friendly dog from contacting the person may well be interpreted as the handler preventing the dog’s aggressive behavior. In the event that that person files a complaint, if there are no witnesses to the incident, it is a question of whose word is believed. Even trained and obedient dogs have periods of regression and can make an error in judgment. This does not constitute an aggressive act, only a poor decision on the dog’s part.

Section 416-12.406 Hearing Procedures

(Concern # 4) (d) The animal services director will **consider** the following factors in determining whether an animal is potentially dangerous or dangerous.

_____I think here something more specific should be stated that would comfort the owner whose dog on a single occasion commits what may be interpreted as an aggressive act. Dogs as a species greet in different ways which may be interpreted as aggressive. They may not be aggressive acts but simply dog greetings. People who are fearful of dogs due to a previous negative experience or who do not understand dogs may misinterpret these greetings. Anyone visiting a dog park has witnessed this.

Section 416-12.422 Permit Conditions

(Concern # 5) (f) Permittees shall display on the property where the animal is kept a sign containing a warning that there is a potentially dangerous dog on the premises.... **The sign must be located where it will be visible to the general public.**

_____Anyone who has had a number of dogs of a particular breed knows that while there are general specific breed characteristics, no two dogs are exactly alike. They are genetically and temperamentally separate entities. My first Doberman was a poor specimen of the breed temperamentally. Every other Doberman I have owned since then has been totally different in temperament. In addition, each has had a different personality. How is it fair to post a sign condemning an entire household of dogs, making it unclear to the neighborhood *which* dog contained therein is considered aggressive and dangerous? Neighbors will not stop to consider which dog; they will simply be wary of all the dogs and of that person residing in the posted house. In posting this sign, you condemn all the dogs that have not been labeled as “dangerous” except by association, How unfair and how un-American! Questionable too is how this will be interpreted by the insurance companies.

(Concern #7)

(k) The animal services director must be allowed **at any reasonable time** to inspect the animal and the place where the animal is located.

_____I would further add “by appointment.” I do not consider a Gestapo-like sudden and unexpected “visit” by the animal services director to be “reasonable.”

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(Concern # 8)

(1)The potentially dangerous animal must **complete** an obedience course **approved by the animal services director...**

_____In my contacts with the animal services department personnel, I have not been convinced they are competent or have the time and resources to judge the type of obedience training such a “potentially dangerous” dog requires. I know from experience that many clubs do not have the capacity to deal with very disruptive dogs in a class situation. A better judge of the dog’s ability to be trained would be an obedience instructor or a behavioral specialist. Nor do I feel just “completion” is sufficient. It would be more correct to state the dog must not only complete a class but his behavior in the presence of other dogs and people must be approved by the trainer and the animal services director. Most obedience clubs offer a Canine Good Citizen Test which offers one way of judging the dog’s behavior while under the owner’s control away from the home. (See enclosed material.)

Section 416-12.430 Exception

(Concern # 9)

Nothing in this chapter shall limit the right of any person or officer to take any proceedings against a potentially dangerous or dangerous animal or its owner or keeper that are otherwise permitted or provided by law. (Ord. 2005-24 Para. 2, 80-97)

_____Again this is too general and leaves the interpretation wide open to abuse and condemnation of an innocent animal. It has dangerous potential for hysterical reactions by “any person.” In our litigious society, this is an open invitation to law suits and actions by Insurance companies.

Conclusion:

While this ordinance attempts to send a strong message to those people who abuse and misuse dogs, it has what I consider dangerously loose language open to misinterpretation by well meaning and not so well meaning folks. I think, however, while it may serve to punish those who use animals to deliberately inflict harm, it also will harm those law abiding people who own dogs, love and nurture them, and like the members of my dog training club, take the time to train them. We are people from all walks of life who spend our lives devoted to our dogs. We raise them carefully, take them to training classes and show them in American Kennel Club events in obedience trials, agility trials, and rally trials. Those of us with larger working breeds such as Dobermans, Rottweilers, Shepherds, etc, feel we are in danger of being labeled as having “potentially dangerous dogs” because of the size and history of those breeds. Ironically, we are the people who are aware of the need to train and socialize

these dogs. We stand in danger, however, of being labeled by One incident involving our breed and a knee jerk reaction to the situation as has already happened in the bay area. You as a Rottweiler owner can well appreciate our concern. As you stated to the San Francisco Chronicle On October 26, 2005,

“From my perspective, [the ordinance] is directed toward the humans, in this case felons. This isn’t about the dogs.”

Unfortunately, in the various instances I have noted in this letter, it could very well become about the **dogs**. I am grateful for having this opportunity to speak with you both for myself and on behalf of my club, The Mt. Diablo Dog Training Club of Walnut Creek. If you will read the information I have enclosed about me and about my club, you will see we have the dogs’ well being at heart. We believe in and promote responsible dog ownership. If we can help you in any way to improve this ordinance, please feel free to call on us. The club phone is (925) 933-8774. My phone is (925) 798-0965.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Irene Quesnoy
Trainer for the Mt. Diablo Dog Training Club
Editor of The Dog Show Calendar and TALES, the club monthly publication
In Dobermans since 1964, earning breed and obedience titles for 26 Dobermans

Copies of the ordinance can be gotten from Gary Bogue (Contra-CostaTimes.com/Gary_Bogue).

I would like to personally thank Irene for allowing me to publish this article in MBDTC Ruff Notes. I believe, if more of us can do something along these lines, then our voices will be heard!

March 18th General Meeting

Place: Round Table Pizza, Watsonville

Time: 6:30 pm



I will have the phone committee call to ask who is coming, so we will know how many Pizzas to order.

Vice-President: Betty "BG" Garcia

Letter from Mark DeSaulnier in Response to his meeting with Irene Quesnoy

Dear Ms. Quesnoy,
Thank you very much for stopping by my office to meet with me earlier this week about the Dangerous Animal Ordinance. I greatly appreciate the research you conducted and the thoughtful analysis of the ordinance's language that you provided for my review.

As you probably know, the Board took action on November 15 and unanimously passed the dangerous animal legislation. However, as part of the Board's action, we required the Department of Animal Services to continue to take public comment and to both relay those concerns to the Board along with Responses as to how those concerns will be met by that department when enforcing the new ordinance.

I feel confident that as responsible Doberman and Rottweiler owners, respectively, we will be well served by the new legislation and that the Department of Animal Services will use proper judgment in its enforcement. This ordinance will focus on the ownership of dogs by convicted felons and on those individuals who are raising aggressive dogs that intimidate neighbors and cause the public's safety to be in jeopardy.

Again, thank you for taking the time to meet with me and share your concerns. I appreciate your civic participation very much.

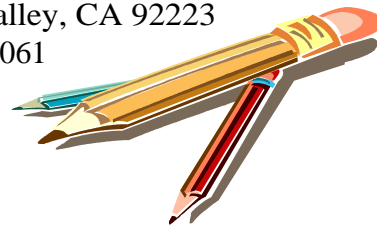
Very truly yours,

Mark Desaulnier
Contra Costa County Supervisor, District IV
(Clayton, Clyde, Concord, Pacheco, Pleasant Hill, Walnut Creek)

If It is required for the Dept. of Animal Services to take comment from the public and relay it to the board we may still have a chance As Responsible Animal Owners. I realize we are in a separate county but it is worth looking into.

Member Directory Update

Nancy Lewis
10457 Overland Trail
Cherry Valley, CA 92223
951-769-8061



Upcoming CGC Test

Date: February 21, 2006
Place: Watsonville Fairgrounds
Time: 8:00 P.M.
Cost: \$10.00
(After expenses are paid the money will be moved into the philanthropies account and distributed to organizations where needed).

This is open to all members and the general public.

Also volunteers that can and are willing to help please contact Judy Force by phone at 831-786-7148 or by email j.force2@baymoon.com

Your help is greatly appreciated!



Happy Not So Furry Birthdays to:

Jane Devlin	3/11/00
Carol Howton	3/15/00
Hazel Welborn	3/19/00
Peggy Martini	3/20/00
Yvette Cook	3/23/00
Mary Nie	3/25/00

Birthday Wags to:

Pam Fugitt-Hetrick	Shetland Sheepdog	Jasmine	3/16/94	12
		MACH, MACH2, CD. HS, MX, MXJ		
Mary Nie	Mini Long-Haired Dachshund	CH. Hailey	3/30/94	12
Luane & Anita Vidak	Labrador	Jiffy VCD2, JH, TDX, MX, MXJ	3/4/98	8
Christa Cordtz	Borzoi	Blondie CD	3/16/98	8
Pam Fugitt-Hetrick	Shetland Sheepdog	Tess PT, AX, AXJ	3/26/98	8
Amanda Nie	Mini Long-Haired Dachshund	CH. Gerwood CGC	3/7/99	7
Elisabeth Lambert	Papillion	Ariel CD, CGC	3/6/00	6
Mary Nie	Mini Long-Haired Dachshund	CH. Mercedes	3/9/00	6
Denise Panzich	Pug	Jade	3/16/01	5



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