

Paw Prints

The Newsletter of the Rand Park Dog Training Club, Inc.



May, 2011

Fake Service Dog or the Real Thing?

By Ursula Hoeft

Did you happen to read the service dog article in the April 17 issue of the Chicago Tribune? I did. And now, whenever I see a dog wearing a "service dog" vest, I'm going to wonder if it's the real thing or an imposter.

The Americans with Disabilities Act, passed in 1990, protects the rights of people with disabilities, which includes the use of service animals. New rules to the act recently drafted specify that a service dog "must be trained to handle specific tasks such as guiding a blind person, alerting a deaf person, fetching medication, doing rescue work, offering seizure protection and helping someone with mental disabilities by preventing or stopping self-destructive or impulsive behavior." Under these new federal rules, dogs that provide emotional comfort, even for psychiatric purposes, are not considered service animals for ADA purposes.

According to the article, people are passing their pets off as service dogs so they'll be allowed in restaurants and hotels and even in the cabins of airplanes. While, as the article states, "people who fake a disability and/or pretend their pet is a service animal may risk fines," I wonder how many fines are actually issued to scammers. Probably zero to none. Who would fine them?

Apparently there's no agency with the responsibility to certify that a dog is a service dog. There's no license or registration required and no official certification process in place. And it's easy to get service dog "certification" via the internet. All a scammer has to do is fill out a form on-line and send it in with a payment that varies from \$20 to \$300. The Tribune article says that the "owner gets a specially marked dog vest or collar, dog identification tags or ID cards, a certificate, training DVDs, informational CDs and other official looking items."

The article also states that training a *real* service dog "takes up to two years at most training schools, and only

about 2,500 dogs graduate each year." And "training guide dogs for the blind can cost up to \$40,000 – for most service dogs it's up to \$20,000." When that much time and money goes into training a *genuine* service dog, it's understandable that legitimate trainers are upset that it's so easy to pass a dog off as a service animal. Disabled individuals who have real service dogs and count on them for help are upset, too, because they sometimes are not allowed in restaurants and public places because of the bad conduct of ill-behaved fakes.

When I typed "service dog equipment" into my internet browser, I was amazed to find a plethora of websites advertising service dog vests, tags, certificates and other equipment. A couple of the websites listed questions that allow you to determine if your dog qualifies as a service dog. I think most dogs in our training program would pass. On one website, you can buy a "Complete Service Dog Kit" for \$249.99 plus \$6.50 for shipping. The kit includes a vest, personalized service dog certificate, and a wallet ID card. Vests come in sizes X-Tiny to X-Large. For another \$10 you can buy a "Ask to Pet Me" patch" or a patch warning "Do Not Pet Me." Websites also include tips on how you can best present your dog as a "service dog" when out in public, in case you're questioned.

And on one website that calls itself Service Dog Certification of America (just a name) I found the statement "Service Dog Certification of America recognizes that every person in the United States of America may have some form of disability." Incredible! *Does the fact that I'm punctuality challenged qualify as a disability?*

How sad that a few wrongdoers are casting doubt on the legitimacy of the wonderful dogs that provide important assistance to persons with genuine disabilities and cheapening the service dog program.

Inside: Newest Champion Tracker – More Tracking News – Diane Muzzey Brag – Condolences – DOT Column – Memorial Day Parade – Awards Banquet – More Raffle Prizes Needed – News from the Editor – Important Medical Information - Legislative Liaison Committee Report – Banquet Invitation – Correction Clinic Entry form

Our Newest Champion Tracker!

By Terri Everwine

The Weimaraner Club of Northern IL hosted a VST test at the DuPage County Government Center in Wheaton, IL on April 10, 2011. The originally predicted weekend rain did not materialize, but rain previous to the weekend left the area quite damp and in places downright soggy. Plotting day went on without a hitch, with sun and lovely temps around 70 by the time we finished. Predicted temps in the 80s for test day had us a bit worried for the dogs who had no time to acclimate to the warmer weather, but I think the dampness of the ground and a brisk wind helped keep things a bit cooler.



CT "Cassie" earned her VST title to complete her Champion Tracker title. Pictured L-R: Judge, Terri Everwine; Owner, Sally Bushwaller; Judge, Jerry Lewis; Tracklayer, Christine Bartels

Track 3 went to our first pass of the day, Cassiopeia, VCD2, RE, JH, now with a CT in front of her name!! Handler Sally Bushwaller rescued this dog as a 6 month old pup and the dog runs with an ILP number. The track started across a large open field and headed into a parking lot. Cassie is said to dislike pavement work, and after giving an indication of exactly where the turn on the pavement was, she proceeded to check a few islands and the far side of the lot before returning to the turn and taking it. Toward the end of the lot she was rewarded with a metal article.

Continuing, she crossed the remainder of the lot and headed up over a berm into another section of field. She picked up the 2nd turn without hesitation and then turned just a bit short of the 3rd turn to parallel the next leg. With steady wind in the upper teens and 20s, this wasn't at all surprising. After another right turn heading toward a building, again Cassie stayed several yards downwind. She approached the building and made a nice left turn and found a plastic article about halfway along the side of the building. Continuing, she turned right and headed across the front of the building, along a sidewalk and across the front entry. From there she hit the lawn on the far side, and headed into another large parking lot. She got only a few steps into the lot when it seemed to dawn on her that this was that pavement she didn't like, so she turned around and tried very hard to find the track somewhere else! After several minutes of this, she finally came back, exactly on track and proceeded across the lot. But wait, half way across she saw more grass, and was compelled to check that out, too. Not finding scent, she again returned exactly to the track and made her way all the way across this time, only to veer off by about 10 feet to check out another island, 10 feet from the final article. We held our breath until she finally gave up her island quest and returned to the pavement, coming back those 10 feet to find her leather article on the grass beyond the lot.

Congratulations to Sally and Cassie on a great job!!

More tracking news from Terri

Lois Leidahl-Marsh has been approved by the AKC board as a provisional tracking judge (TD) and her name will be published in the May issue of the AKC Gazette.

Congratulations, Lois, on your successful application!

From Diane Muzzey

In the June issue of the AKC Gazette, the Belgian Malinois column will feature a story about Brady, since he is the only CT Malinois to date.

The gal who wrote it put a nice slant on it; actually it's more about tracking and what it takes to be successful, and why we enthusiasts love it so much.

(We hope to include more about Brady in next month's edition of Paw Prints. - ed.)

Sadly, two Rand Park Members have lost loved ones.

Kathy Hansen's father and Karyn McCoy's mother both passed away recently.

Condolences to Kathy and Karyn and their families.

“We meet but briefly in life, if we touch each other with stardust – that is everything.”

Author unknown.

From the DOT

Summer Training will run from June 7th through July 26. Sign-up sheets for instructors will be at the training hall on May 3.

We will be at Prairie Lakes Park in Des Plaines again this year. It is a Great Deal for all – IT'S FREE. Flyers will be at the training hall in late May and will be published in next month's Paw Prints.

Dee Morrison
Director of Training

Attention Rand Parkers!

Anyone interested in marching in Park Ridge's Memorial Day Parade, please meet us at Talcott & Prospect at 10 a.m. on May 30.

Questions?

Call Bill Urquhart - 847-825-3318



Rand Park members who marched in a previous Memorial Day parade.

Don't miss the Awards Banquet on May 15.

It's a REALLY big deal.

If you haven't yet sent in your reservation, do it today! Lois Breslow needs to receive it by May 9. The invitation/reservation form is in this issue of Paw Prints.

Don't worry about filling in the "seating request" section. You'll be seated with fun people – we guarantee it! And remember, everyone who's at the Banquet will get a great looking, high quality Rand Park polo shirt.

More Raffle Prizes are Needed!

It's not too late to donate items for the Awards Banquet raffle. Jeneane Hinrichson and Sonny Lund are in charge, and they want to have as much "stuff" as possible to raffle off without dipping into the Club's treasury. To do that, they need your help!

Jeneane and Sonny will welcome donations of dog gear, of course, but they'll also be glad to get just about anything else you care to donate. Money donations will also be gratefully accepted.

You'll be able to use Rand Park Certificates to buy raffle tickets. It's the last time you'll be able to use them.

Bring your raffle donations to the training hall or call Jeneane (847-823-6155) or Sonny (773-622-7872) if you need to make other arrangements or want to know more about the raffle.

Jeneane and Sonny need items by May 10 to get everything ready for the Banquet.

News from the editor: Kathy and Joe Hahn have agreed to take care of the printing and "snail mail" distribution of future issues of Paw Prints. (*Thank you, thank you, thank you, Kathy and Joe!*)

To make the task a little less burdensome – and to save the club money – if you still get a printed copy of the newsletter but now can receive it via e-mail, please consider receiving it only electronically. Contact me to let me know that we can take you off the "snail mail" mailing list. Ursula Hoelt

(For contact information, see "Editor" at the bottom of the Legislative Liaison Report page.)

Important Medical Information

From Karen Korab:

Pfizer drops ProMeris after study links it to skin disease.

Pfizer Animal Health will halt production of its ProMeris flea and tick preventative for dogs after a North Carolina State University study of 22 dogs showed a possible link between the product and cases of Pemphigus foliaceus, an autoimmune skin disease. The remaining stocks of the topical preventative will be available through mid-September unless supplies run out sooner, the company said.

Check with your vet to make sure the flea and tick prevention product you're using is safe.

Also from Karen: For those who have access to the internet, important information about 10 Human Medication that are poisonous to dogs can be found at <http://tinyurl.com/43ctcac>. The material is copyrighted. If we get permission to print it, it will be include in a future issue of Paw Prints. In the meantime, here's the list: Cholesterol drugs, thyroid drugs, beta-blockers, ACE inhibitors, birth control pills, benzodiazepines and sleep aids, ADHD medication, antidepressants, acetaminophen, NSAIDs.

Recommendations include keeping human and animal drugs in different locations; if you keep medications in your purse always put them in a location where your dog(s) can't reach them; do the same with pill containers; make sure your pills are packed in a safe spot when you travel.

This warning about drugs reminded me of a tragic accident that happened not long ago. A friend of mine, who loves dogs and had just lost a standard poodle that lived to a ripe old age, adopted a beautiful year-old standard. The dog hated being in a crate, since he apparently had spent most of his life in one while with his previous owners. Because she felt sorry for him, instead of forcing him into his crate when she went to work, my friend confined him to her kitchen using a gate. Being skilled at getting out of places, like most dogs are, he climbed over the gate and explored the house. In an upstairs bathroom he found a tube of medicated prescription cream that my friend used on her face and ingested some of it. When my friend came home from work she found the dog vomiting – she rushed him to our local emergency vet facility. Sadly, they couldn't save him. My friend was heartbroken, as I'm sure we can all understand. It turned out that the mild, seemingly harmless cream that she regularly applied to her face is fatal to dogs when ingested.

Never leave any medication where your inquisitive, and crafty, dog can find it.

- ed

From Joann Neville:

Dr. W. Jean Dodds and Hemopet introduce a unique **OnLine Test Request Form** for veterinary clients and pet owners. Dr Dodds' diagnostic program for animal health and veterinary diagnostics offers the most advanced veterinary thyroid diagnostic testing in the world. The quality, patented technology, service and consultation is used worldwide to benefit dogs and cats with thyroid disease.

It is easy for veterinary clients and consumers to select appropriate thyroid panels – for instance Thyroid 5, Thyroid 4 or Thyroid 2. With the appropriate patient demographics completed, Hemopet is able to provide age- and breed-specific thyroid analyses based on the cumulative, patented data base of more than 15 years. It's almost as simple as buying on-line - just a click on your computer. Hemopet's upcoming Version 2 of its OnLine Test Request Form will make it even more simple – so watch for that also.

On-line access to Dr. Dodds' diagnostics program is easy via:

[On Line Test Request Form](#)

[Nutriscan® Diagnostics \(Food Intolerance Testing\) coming soon !](#)

www.hemopet.org

Or by contacting the company at:

HEMOPET/HEMOLIFE

11561 Salinaz Ave.

Garden Grove, CA 92843

Tel# 714-891-2022 fx# 7141-891-2123

Legislative Liaison Committee Report – April 20, 2011

Rand Park's Legislative Committee consists of Margo Milde, Chair mrm1206@yahoo.com and Lois Leidahl-Marsh berniersplus@comcast.net Please be sure to contact us with any pet legislation concerns or questions.

"The Constitution is not an instrument for the government to restrain the people; it is an instrument for the people to restrain the government." - Patrick Henry

Our Illinois Federation of Dog Clubs and Owners (IFDCO) Initiative bill, SB 1637 "Animal Identification Scan" – passed the IL Senate on a vote of 57 to 0 and will now move to the IL House! You can read our IFDCO initiative bill, SB 1637, at this link: <http://www.ilga.gov/legislation/97/SB/PDF/09700SB1637sam001.pdf>

Check the IFDCO website (go to the Legislation page) for current information on all Illinois legislation: <http://www.ifdco.org/>

AKC Legislative Alert against PUPS (federal Puppy Uniform Protection and Safety Act): The AKC has just issued a new alert against PUPS, for which both a House version (HR 835) and Senate version (S 707) exist. Among the AKC's concerns are:

- Overly broad inclusion of co-owners;
- Definition of "breeding intact dog" as any intact female age 4 months or older; and
- Exercise requirements overly vague and as written preclude most types of training.

You can read the AKC alert on PUPS at this link: http://www.akc.org/news/index.cfm?article_id=4388

IFDCO also has an opposition statement against PUPS on their website:

http://ifdco.homestead.com/3-12-11_IFDCO_position_statement_on_PUPS3_modified_3-2011.pdf

Long-time California Pomeranian breeder Geneva Coats shares her own concerns on how PUPS will be harmful to AKC hobby breeders:

http://www.thedogplace.org/PROJECT/RIGHTS/PUPS-Attack-Breeders-11033_Coats.asp

IL Representative Jim Sacia (R-89) named "Illinois Legislator of the Year" by Sportsmen's and Animal Owners Alliance (SAOVA). Susan Wolf, President of SAOVA, indicated that "Sacia's unwavering support of sportsmen, animal owners, and livestock producers clearly distinguished him among other nominees for this award. Sacia is an avid sportsman, horse owner, and member of the Illinois Legislative Sportsmen's Caucus. He understands firsthand the many challenges facing Illinois citizens involved in all facets of the animal industry and has been a consistent champion in protecting our rights." Sacia is also an ardent foe of the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS), and is not afraid to speak out against them both in legislative sessions, and on his own blog:

<http://www.sacia.ilhousegop.org/2011/01/jims-column-12711/>

Pet ownership statistics at highest level ever in the U.S., according to the American Pet Product's Association (APPA) annual survey. An all-time high of 72.9 million households in the U.S. have pets. Pets owned include 78 million dogs, 86.4 million cats, and 16.2 million birds. Approximately 40% of pet owning households own multiple pets. Despite the depressed economy, pet owners still seem willing to spend considerable money on their pet's care. View the survey results here:

<http://www.prweb.com/releases/prweb2011/4/prweb8252684.htm>

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News/articles received by the Editor by the 20th of the month will be included in the next month's issue if suitable and space permits.

Paw Prints is **YOUR** newsletter. Send me your news. Club members want to know about your accomplishments. Your "brags" will inspire others.

**You're invited to attend the
Rand Park Dog Training Club
Annual Awards Banquet**

Des Plaines Elks Club—495 Lee Street, Des Plaines, IL

Please join us on Sunday, May 15, 2011

at 12:00 pm for

***Complimentary Cocktails & Hors d'Oeuvres
Luncheon to follow — Filet Mignon & Chicken Breast
Includes a Rand Park Polo Shirt***

\$20.00 per person

Please RSVP by May 9, 2011

Donations for the Raffle are being accepted by

Jeneane Hinrichsen and Sonny Lund

(Rand Park "Bucks" may be used for the Raffle)

For More Information call Marion Meseth 847.827.6530

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Please return this portion with your check payable to RPDTC

Name(s): _____

of Reservations: _____ ***Polo Shirt Size(s):*** _____

8 People Per Table

S, M, L, XL, XXL

Seating Request: _____

Mail RSVP to: Lois Breslow; 8430 Major Ave; Morton Grove, IL 60053

RAND PARK DOG TRAINING CLUB CORRECTION CLINIC

2011 CORRECTION CLINIC DATES

MAY 7TH, JUNE 4TH, JULY 16

AT

**FOR YOUR CANINE (AIR CONDITIONED) -
1975 CORNELL AVE
MELROSE PARK, IL 60160**

**Please note:
this is For Your K-9's new location.**

**Judging Starts at 11:30 A.M.
NO WALK-INS AFTER 1:00 P.M.**

**FEE: PRE-ENTRY: \$7 (\$6 2ND ENTRY SAME DOG)
GATE ENTRY: \$8 (\$7 2ND ENTRY SAME DOG)
CLASSES OFFERED - NOVICE---OPEN---UTILITY
ALL CLASSES LIMITED TO 30 ENTRIES**

**MAIL PRE-ENTRIES TO: JEAN EREMO, 2511 N 79TH AVE., ELMWOOD
PARK, IL 60707 708-453-5128 - Make checks payable to
Rand Park Dog Training Club, Inc. (RPDTC)**

NAME _____ **PHONE** _____

ADDRESS _____ **CITY/ZIP** _____

E-MAIL _____ **BREED** _____ **DOG'S NAME** _____

CLASS _____ **ADDIL CLASS** _____ **JUMP HTS** _____

I agree to indemnify and hold harmless RAND PARK DOG TRAINING CLUB, its officers, directors and members against any and all claims or actions that may at any time be made or instituted against them or any of them by any person for the purpose of enforcing any cause or action growing out of or connected with my attendance or my dog's attendance at the correction clinics conducted by the RAND PARK DOG TRAINING CLUB.

SIGNATURE _____ **DATE** _____

CLINIC DATE _____ **AMT PD** _____

Rand Park Dog Training Club, Inc.