

Paw Prints

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



February/March 2018

Dogs: Perpetual Adolescents

By Ursula Hoeft

Those of us who belong to that privileged group of people who receive the AARP's bi-monthly magazine may have read the article titled "Our Dog Years" that appeared in a past issue. I don't know about you, but anything that has "dog" in its title gets my immediate attention! The article provided some interesting food for thought.

According to the article, dogs live in a state of perpetual adolescence in the company of parents - us; that they don't grow up, emotionally at least, is a real positive. We love the fact that they remain child-like, maintaining the positive characteristics of children without any of the bad stuff.

The scientific term for what the article calls a "Peter Pan" existence, is "neoteny." Neoteny is a condition whereby adults retain juvenile traits. (I didn't realize that there was scientific name for something a lot of us "suffer" from - not acting our age! Let's never change!) Dogs being "neotenus" (I hope that's a word!) made them the subject of a study being conducted by scientists from various disciplines who are part of a Canine Longevity Consortium laying the groundwork for a study on aging in dogs that they expect will give them a better understanding of human aging.

The research is being conducted because "unlike most animal models used to study aging, dogs aren't in a lab - they share the same environment we do ... Like us, dogs exhibit huge genetic variability, eat processed food, sleep in our houses (many right in our beds) and enjoy access to humanlike health care." Dogs also "get sick and die like us; they acquire arthritis and heart disease and many of the same cancers; they grow frail and forgetful. Often their lives are extended by expensive medical interventions." Scientists hope to learn "what factors allow some dogs to better fend off these indignities. The hope is that what works for them will work for us."

So ... with all they do for us already, dogs now are apparently expected to be guinea pigs, too!

The AARP article closes with some good advice that we all should heed. "Eat the best food you can afford. Go for a walk, even if it's raining. Take a lot of naps. Keep your teeth clean and your breath fresh, so that the people you lick will not flinch. And when someone you love walks in through the door, even if it happens five times a day, go totally insane with joy." A great way to live our lives, whether we're of the human or canine species.

Inside:

Editor's Message - New Members - In Brief - The Real Reason Why - Brags - Achiever Dog Program - Obedience Rule Changes - Trial Help Needed - Trial Donations Request - Awards Banquet/Raffle Donations Info - Awards Banquet Invitation - No Crying in Dog Sports - Dog Facts - Slate of Officers for 2018/2019 - Training Calendar

Message from the Editor

As some of you know, Greg, my husband, Gus, my poodle, and I are in Scottsdale this winter. Thanks to technology, being several thousand miles away from our Northbrook home doesn't prevent me from doing the newsletter. And I'm seeing a lot of dog "stuff" here to write about that I'm hoping may be of interest to folks in the Midwest.

Scottsdale is amazingly dog friendly! You see dogs everywhere. They're in department stores, drug stores, even grocery stores and restaurants, which I'm still not used to. And no one seems to be surprised or bothered by their presence. Gus goes almost everywhere with us. People fuss over him, want to pet him, rave about how cute he is. I hope all the attention he's getting doesn't go to his head!

Most of the dogs we're seeing are All American Dogs (mixed breeds) and while we haven't seen a lot of poodles, we've run into a lot of people who LOVE poodles. "Poodle people" feel an immediate connection to other poodle owners, as well as to people who just love poodles, so there's always a lot of conversation that occurs when we run into them here in Arizona. It

seems everywhere we go with Gus we meet people who tell us about poodles they own, or have owned, and what wonderful dogs poodles are - not news to us, of course! And everyone has a story to tell about their poodle(s) when conversation turns to "poodle talk," which sometimes goes on "forever."

Rescue groups are very active in Scottsdale and they do a great job finding homes for dogs. People here seem to be glad to open their homes and hearts to needy dogs. We are always running into people when we're out walking who have several dogs with them, most appearing to be All American Dogs that we learn they have adopted.

Since the weather in Arizona is always moderate, it has to be easier to have several dogs than it is in the Midwest. Think, no snow, no ice, no muddy paws: think having a canine companion, or several, to take you walking on dry, warm, sunny days, which is what most days are like here. We're lovin' it!

Ursula Hoeft

Welcome New Members

Kathy Czarnik and Winnie, Christopher Rogoz and Hershey, Roseanne Dziejdzic and Piper, Judith Bush and Nathan, Dan Santoro and Echo

We hope you and your dog will benefit from your association with Rand Park Dog Training Club. Rand Park is a very active, busy organization. Participating in club activities will make your membership more beneficial and, we believe, more enjoyable, and will help ensure their success.

In Brief

From the DOT: We will be doing Canine Good Citizen and Advanced Canine Good Citizen testing at the training hall on May 15th.

We have Barb Krynski to thank for the information about AKC Rule Changes and the Achiever Dog Program included in this issue.

Don't miss the Awards Banquet on May 6. The Invitation is in this issue of Paw Prints.

Rand Park's Obedience and Rally Trials will be held on April 28 & 29. A LOT of help is needed to make them successful. See Help Wanted inside.

Consider making a donation to the Trials General Fund. Form inside.

**Titles are nice, but here's the
REAL REASON WHY WE OWN DOGS ...**

Barb Krynski says ...

"So that we learn to slow down, smell the flowers, enjoy the sunshine, and be glad for another day!"

Barb's adorable dogs are in the photo on the right.

(Send reasons why dogs enhance your life via email to randparkpawprints@live.com)



Rand Parkers Have a Lot to Brag About!

Good news from ...

Diane Stark ...

Both Tidbit and Tiffany earned their Novice Trick titles at the end of December. In addition, Tidbit earned the AKC Achiever Dog award.

Tidbit and Tiffany are in the photo on the right.



Eleanor Goss ...

Mackenzie earned her Barn Hunt Master title, RATM, on Jan 14.

Mackenzie is in the photo on the left.



Teena Horne ...

Spartacus and I have finally achieved his novice or CD title.

That's Spartacus with his ribbons on the right.



And Sonja Lund tells us "I just received in the mail a certificate from the AKC for an Achiever Dog recognition award ... you have to receive a placement, title or qualifying score in three areas ... the AKC sends it to you as soon as you qualify."

Information about the Achiever Dog Program follows.

Information about the Achiever Dog Program

The new Achiever Dog program is a way to introduce and encourage dogs and owners to try a variety of sports. Dogs that are awarded a placement or earn a qualifying score in three different sports will receive a certificate.

Am I eligible?

- Must be registered with the AKC, or
- Listed with the AKC purebred Alternative Listing Program (PAL), or
- Listed with the AKC Canine Partners Program, or
- Recorded as a Foundation Stock Service (FSS) breed

How to earn an achiever dog certificate

- Participation (placement or qualifying score) in three different sports

Which sports count?

Conformation - Placement in a class at a dog show, Placement in a class at a 4-6 Month, Beginner Puppy Competition, Placement in a class at an FSS Open Show

Obedience - Qualifying score in any titling class

Rally - Qualifying score in any titling class

Agility - Qualifying score in any titling class

ACT - Qualifying score at an ACT event

Luring Coursing - Qualifying score in any titling class

CAT - Passing score at a CAT event

FAST CAT - title

Herding - Qualifying score in any titling class; Qualifying score at a FDC event

Tracking - Passing performance at any licensed/member test

Canine Good Citizen - Passing a CGC, CGCA, or CGCU

AKC Trick Title - Earning a TKN, TKI, TKA, or TKP title

Field Trials - Passing score in a titling class

Hunt Test - Passing score in a titling class

AKC Scent Work - Qualifying run in a titling class

Earthdog - Qualifying run in a titling class

Barn Hunt Association - Any BHA title

North American Diving Dog - Any NADD title

North American Flyball Association - Any NAFA title

Parent Club Titles - Any Parent Club title recognized by AKC

Working Dog Titles - Any AKC Recognized Working Dog titles

Search & Rescue - FEMA certified Urban or Wilderness SAR titles

Therapy Dog - Any AKC Therapy Dog title

AKC Obedience Rule Changes

Beginning May 1, 2018 the new AKC rule changes go into effect. Below is a short summary of a few of the changes. This link will take you to the AKC videos that demonstrate the new exercises (and demonstrations of the new Rally signs): <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCOmnrKKiM2kcaowVI3SXeVQ>

Novice

Group sits & downs will now be done with dogs on a 6' leash, with the handler holding the leash loosely. Dogs will be lined up in the center of the ring either in 1 row or back to back, and the duration for each position is 1 minute. Novice also added the sit-stay-get your leash exercise. The handler will leave their off leash dog, walk to the opposite side of the ring, get their leash and turn to face their dog. The judge will then command them to return to their dog. They will be told to reattach their leash.

Open A & B

This level has the most changes. There will be NO out of sight group exercises anymore. In its place are two exercises. One - the dog will be positioned on one end of the ring. The handler will tell the dog to stay and walk to the opposite side of the ring and pause for 1 minute. The judge will tell the handler to return to their dog. Two - the handler will walk out of the ring, get her leash, re-enter the ring and pause until the judge tells them to return to their dog.

An additional exercise is the signal exercise. While in heel position the handler will be told to stand their dog, leave their dog. The handler will walk away 13', turn and upon being told command their dog to lie down (verbal &/or hand signal). They will then be told to leave their dog and walk out an additional 13', turn and upon being told will command their dog to sit (verbal &/or hand signal). They will then be told to return to their dog.

In Open B the signals and order of the exercises will be mixed.

This link will take you to the AKC page with the inserts with the revisions to the regulations:



<https://images.akc.org/pdf/rulebooks/RO2999.pdf>

YOUR club needs YOU!

There's no shortage of jobs that need to be filled at Rand Park's Obedience and Rally Trials on April 28 and 29.

They include:

- Gate Steward
- Table Steward
- Ring Steward
- Equipment - Set-up, etc.
- And More

No experience needed - On the job training will be provided.

If you're new to the exciting world of dog performance sports obedience, stewarding is a great way to find out what a Trial is all about.

To learn more about stewarding and/or to volunteer contact:

For Obedience, Co-Chief Ring Stewards: Patti Beckstrom (Home 847- 934-9630; Cell 847- 533-8638 - patsgsps@att.net) - Karen Schaubel (847-370-4028 - lunaria22@yahoo.com)

For Rally, Barb Krynski (847- 577-9163 - klevr-k9@att.net)

Obedience and Rally Trial Donations

Monetary donations to the General Fund of any amount are needed and appreciated as these pay for all the Ribbons, High In Trial and High Combined prizes and any placement awards offered. Please complete the form below and mail it, along with your check, to Gloria Blanton. **She must receive your donation no later than April 18 for your name to be included in the catalog.**

Please fill out the form below and mail it, with your donation, to Gloria Blanton.

Donation to the 2018 Obedience and Rally Trial General Fund

Name(s): _____ Amount _____

Mail to: Gloria Blanton, 168 W. Kathleen Dr., Des Plaines, IL 60018

The Date of this Year's Awards Banquet is May 6

By Ursula Hoefl

If you've never been to a Rand Park Awards Banquet, don't miss it this year. It's a really big deal! You'll enjoy a delicious meal, adult beverages, if you choose, and you'll bask in the camaraderie and good fellowship that are always abundant when Rand Parkers get together.

And you'll be inspired when you see all the fantastic awards that will be presented to Rand Park members for their achievements during the past year. You'll be motivated, too, to dedicate more time to training when you see all the awards that can be earned.

The Banquet invitation is in this issue of Paw Prints. Be sure to fill it out and send it to Marion Meseth or give it to her at training. She needs to have it by April 27.

The cost for members in good standing (members whose dues are paid as of April 1) is \$30 per person; the cost for non-members is \$40. Amazing prices for a wonderful meal, and adult beverages are included!

Bring your family and friends to the Banquet. But if you're not coming with a group, don't worry about filling in the "seating request" section of the reservation form. The folks in charge of the Banquet will seat you with interesting and friendly people. It's easy to do - all dog lovers are interesting and friendly!

Awards Banquet Raffle

In addition to great food, adult beverages, good fellowship, interesting "dog talk," and a plethora of awards, there also will again be a Raffle.

Please consider donating items. Marge Kabala and Kathy Laspina 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!

Marge and Kathy will welcome donations of dog gear, of course, and they will also be glad to get just about anything else you care to donate. Some of the items they receive will be included in baskets geared to a particular theme, so you might consider things for gardening, scrapbooking, picnicking, reading, a romantic evening at home, to mention just a few. Think of others - be creative! Small items will also be appreciated; they'll be included in baskets and will make for more variety. Consider sponsoring a whole basket; maybe ask someone to partner on it with you. Ask businesses you frequent to donate gift certificates - it's good advertising for them. Money donations will also be gratefully accepted.

Watch for things on sale in stores. Seems there are sales going on all the time these days. Does anyone buy things at regular prices anymore?

Bring your raffle donations to the training hall or call Marge (773-750-9989) or Kathy (224-585-5455) if you need to make other arrangements or want to know more about the raffle.



*Come celebrate with us at the
Rand Park Dog Training Club's
Annual Awards Banquet
And Raffle*



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

*Join us on Sunday, May 6, at 12 noon,
for complimentary Cocktails and Hors d'Oeuvres
Lunch to follow at 1 p.m. – Filet Mignon and Chicken Breast
Bar open until 3 o'clock*

Members in good standing: \$30 per person

Non Members: \$40 per person

Please RSVP by April 27

**Donations for the Banquet Raffle will be appreciated.
Bring your donations - gifts, gift certificates, money - to training,
or contact Marge Kabala (773-750-9989) or
Kathy Laspina (224-585-5455 - kathyjo459@att.net) to make other arrangements.**

*For more information, contact
Marion Meseth (847-827-6530 - demeseth@yahoo.com)*

Send your reservation(s), with your check payable to Rand Park DTC, to:

Marion Meseth

P.O. Box 1354

Des Plaines, IL 60017

Name(s): _____

Number in party: _____

Check enclosed: \$ _____

Please seat me/us with: _____

Tables seat eight. Seating requests will be accommodated where possible.
No worries if you're not including a seating request - you'll be seated with interesting, fun people!

There's No Crying In Dog Sports ...

By Laurie C. Williams CPDT-KA

Pup 'N Iron® Canine Fitness & Learning Center

<https://pupniron.com/laurie-s-blog>, Reprinted with permission.

... or getting angry (especially at your dog), or throwing a tantrum and storming off, or blaming everyone and everything other than your lack of practice, training, and/or ring readiness. And yet it seems I am seeing these things happen more and more these days, especially from those who are relatively new to dog sport competition. Full disclosure, I have cried myself after a very poor performance. I've been at this game for more than 30 years now so I'm not going to even try to portray that I haven't had my own moments of weakness. But that's exactly what it was, weakness, and the cloud of shame that came over me afterwards in turn forced me to reflect on what exactly was going on in my head and causing the momentary breakdown. I don't have a problem with anyone being competitive and wanting your performance to reflect the time you've put into the training for that particular sport. Healthy competition is fine, but the operative word is "healthy." When your participation in a sport leads you to sadness, disappointment and/or very unsportsman-like behavior, it's the opposite of healthy. And then there's our teammates, our dogs. What happens to them amongst all the anger, crying, disappointment and blaming? Don't think for a moment that they don't feel it all. We all know every emotion we feel travels right down the leash and is absorbed by our dogs. What message are we sending them about what just happened? What associations are we making for them? Is this the mental picture we want etched into their brains about being our teammate? And then we wonder why so many dogs become "ringwise."

So, how can we avoid these emotions taking over after a less than stellar performance?

1. By remembering any extracurricular activity we do with our dogs is supposed to be FUN, first and foremost. If you can't ensure that both you and your dog will go into and come out of the ring or competition feeling like you've had fun, don't do it.
2. Your dog did not ask to be there, and yet your dog is participating FOR you and trying to do the best he/she can. Trust me when I say, your dog would just assume be playing a game of fetch with you in the back yard or laying with you on the sofa. He is doing this because you want him to and therefore you owe him a debt of gratitude and part of that debt is paying him well, with love and lots of rewards regardless of what happens in the ring.
3. Realize it's quite possible, actually quite probable, that you just weren't ready. You may be logging a lot of hours training and practicing, but maybe it's time to analyze your practice. Although I don't necessarily like the emphasis being on "perfection" as the goal, I do like what the late coach Vince Lombardi says about practice. "Practice does not make perfect. Only perfect practice makes perfect." So, is your practice perfect? I see this a lot with people when they are transitioning from on to off leash work, for example. The first thing I ask my students is, "is your performance ON leash perfect?" If not, why would you expect your off leash performance to be even close?
4. Your partner is a dog, not a computer. No matter what you've trained there will be times your dog will remind you of this. Learn to deal with it, even better, laugh about it, or get out of the game.
5. Reflect on why this is all so important to you to begin with. What is it about your life as a whole, your self worth and esteem that makes what happens in a competitive dog sport hold so much importance?

And then ask yourself if it is fair to put all this pressure on your dog? I think you know the answer. It might be time for you to take up competitive chess, Scrabble or something that will not put pressure on anyone other than yourself.

6. Training is a journey and a continual learning experience and each dog you train and each ring experience will in turn help you become a better trainer. Or at least it should if you let it.

7. And this one is for those specifically working with their "Novice A" dogs, or their "practice dogs," as I like to call them. Hey, learn to take your lumps! I guess it's all part of this *fast food mentality* that has permeated our society that has made us all very impatient. We want instant gratification, and when we don't get it, by way of a Q or a placement, then something has to be wrong and/or someone or something is to blame such as the judge, the weather, your trainer, the leaf that fell off a previous competitor's shoe and was left in the ring right at the starting line, your husband forgetting to buy the hotdogs, Obama. Whatever. I also think social media has a lot to do with this as well. We all now have a forum to post our "wins" instantly as they happen and receive accolades and "likes" galore as further validation. Naturally, that can make it doubly disappointing when we have nothing to report. If this is impacting you, keep your trialing schedule to yourself and stay off Facebook. One of my favorite things to do is sneak off to trials, telling no one other than my husband and maybe a close friend or two. I am able to trial in peace, with no pressure to report or expectations from others. I've had some of my best ring performances this way.

8. Read some books on sports psychology. There are some great ones out there. Part of being a great competitor is learning how not only to win with dignity, but also to lose with grace and learn from those losses

(Laurie C Williams CPDT-KA, is a canine education specialist, dog behavior counselor and has been a trainer for over 25 years, She is the owner and Director of Training and Behavior Counseling at Pup 'N Iron Canine Fitness & Learning Center in Fredericksburg, VA. Laurie also is the host of the radio podcast show DSPN (Dog Sports and Performance Network) on Pet Life Radio and a professional member of the Association of Pet Dog Trainers (APDT); she is an A.K.C., U.K.C. and APDT Rally and Obedience judge.)

Interesting dog facts:

Within hours of the September 11, 2001 attack on the World Trade Center, specially trained dogs were on the scene, including German Shepherds, Labs, and even a few little Dachshunds.

The U.S. has the highest dog population in the world. France has the second highest.

Dog nose prints are as unique as human finger prints and can be used to identify them.

At the end of WWI, the German government trained the first guide dogs for war-blinded soldiers.

Dog trainers in ancient China were held in high esteem. A great deal of dog domestication also took place in China, especially dwarfing and miniaturization.

During the Middle Ages, Great Danes and Mastiffs were sometimes suited with armor and spiked collars to enter a battle or to defend supply caravans.

Ancient Egyptians revered their dogs. When a pet dog died, the owners shaved off their eyebrows, smeared mud in their hair, and mourn aloud for days.

Officers for next year will be elected at the February 27 Membership Meeting.
Be sure to attend.

2018-2019 Slate of Officers

ADVISOR to the Board: Ruth Shields
 CHAIRMAN of the Board: Gloria Urquhart
 PRESIDENT: Lois Breslow
 VICE PRESIDENT: Lois Leidahl-Marsh
 SECRETARY: Linda Forman
 ASSISTANT SECRETARY: Diane Stark
 TREASURER & INSURANCE: Gloria Blanton
 ASSISTANT TREASURER: Forrest Shields
 BOARD OF DIRECTORS:
 Lin Hartnett (New 2018-2019)
 Jean Eremo (New 2018-2019)
 Kathy Baureis (New 2018-2019)
 Mary Laurie
 Patty Stitz
 Clyde Werner

**Rand Park Dog Training Club Inc.
 Training Calendar for Year 2017-2018**

February 6	Training Week 10
February 13	Evaluation
February 20	PROGRAM
Spring Session	
February 27	Orientation Membership Meeting
March 6	Training Week 1
March 13	Training Week 2
March 20	Training Week 3
March 27	Training Week 4
April 3	Training Week 5
April 10	Training Week 6 Membership Meeting
April 17	Training Week 7
April 24	Training Week 8
May 1	Training Week 9
May 8	Training Week 10
May 15	Evaluation

Training Hours: 6:15 to 7:05; 7:10 to 8:00; 8:05 to 8:55; 9:00 to 9:55
 Except on October 10, January 16, February 27 and April 10. On those nights, classes will
 be shortened to allow time for the Membership Meetings. Training hours will be:
 6:15-6:55 6:55-7:35 7:35-8:15 8:15-8:55
 Meetings will immediately follow the last classes.

Keep this Calendar for future reference.