



**LENAPE TRACKING CLUB
OF CENTRAL NEW JERSEY**

COMMON SCENTS

MAY/JUNE, 1995
Vol. 19., No. 3

TED 1995



LENAPE MEMBERS!!! Pat yourselves on the back! You have pulled off another successful TED. Each year TED gets better and better. With the help of so many members and the steering committee (who keep coming up with refinements and ways to improve), the club presents a very professional and informative program. Based on the survey results, this year's participants leave us little to improve on, but we've still come up with some new ideas for 1996.

Except for a brief shower, the weather was on our side and blessedly cool for the dogs. The food was plentiful and delicious. An enthusiastic group of handlers and dogs made it a fun day for all of us.

Many thanks to Phyllis Broderick, Vickie Brown, Anna Burbank, George Calverley, John & Pat Etchells, Peg Forte, Priscilla & Karl Gabosch, Barbara Greenfield, Marty Hamil, Mollie Heide, Millie Hefner, Rose Marie Kruser, Joanne MacKinnon, Hope Meaker, Pat Paulding, Gerry Sullivan, Dot Vail and Martha Windisch.

This will be my last year as TED chairman, and I'm grateful to all of you who have made the last few years so successful. Peg Forte will be in charge for 1996, and I know you all will give her the same wonderful support that you have shown me.

Don't forget to come to the follow-ups.

Linda Riley

EDIE BRAGINTON write that she is now training director of the Albany Obedience Club. She is expanding her canine pack with the addition of a female GSD from Schutzhund parents. (Her Weimaraner gang is down to two - **Biz** and **Nova**.)

Cocker **Robin**, **CD**, **TD** **ETCHELLS** has a litter of 5 (sired by a Ch **CD TD SH** dog).

The GABOSCH's Ridgeback **Mattie** finished her AFSA FCh in March. (Sighthound Field Championship). Then in April she took a 4-point major to finish her AKC Ch and the next day took a 4 point major toward her AKC FCh.

Luckipenni LOOS was HIT with a 195.5 in OB at the Hunterdon Hills Collie Club Trial and was also HIT with a 194 in OB at the Tri-County Breeders' Obedience Trial - to retire a challenge trophy. (handled by RONN at both shows).

MARION RAPP reports that her Cardigan Corgi **Lady** finished her CD at Rockland County (after qualifying at three straight shows).

Reminder to all those coming to Follow-Up 1. The fields are probably not going to be cut. Long pants are advised!!!

President - Anna Burbank * **Vice President** - Peg Forte * **Secretary** - Pat Etchells
Treasurer - Linda Riley * **Board Members** - Pat Blake, John Etchells, Hope Meaker, Pat Paulding, Dot Vail * **Editor** - Pat Etchells, PO Box 326, Lebanon, NJ 08833. deerhill@aol.com

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FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK



Tracking Experience Day was wonderful. Thank you to all the members who came out and helped with the event. It takes a lot of people to make the day run smoothly, and

we couldn't do it without so many members who are willing to volunteer their time. Besides, it's fun to see everyone. I think the TED participants got a real positive introduction to tracking and a favorable impression of our club. We could have done without that little downpour as we took the dogs out, but that passed quickly. I don't know what we'll do if the weather ever decides not to cooperate with us. The questionnaires which we distributed to the participants had overwhelmingly positive feedback. Everyone loved the format. One participant, whose dog may be watching too much television, suggested music and videos to entertain the dogs while they wait to go out in the afternoon. We'll consider it, but I don't think we'll be showing "Old Yeller".

TED follow ups are coming up. Hopefully we'll see a lot of new tracking dogs out there. As always, members who would like to volunteer to help with the follow-ups are encouraged to do so. Call me at 215-862-9833. Remember, you may track your own dog afterwards on a time- and space- available basis. If you don't call us, we'll probably call you.

Anna Burbank



DATES TO REMEMBER

Follow-up One
..... Saturday, June 10, 1995
Follow-up Two
..... Sunday, July 11, 1995
Follow-up Three
..... Saturday, August 12, 1995
Certification Workshop
..... Sunday, September 24, 1995
Tracking Test
..... Sunday, November 5, 1995

MEMBERSHIP

The following persons have submitted an application for membership. They will become members 30 days after the mailing of this newsletter unless the secretary Pat Etchells, PO Box 326, Lebanon, NJ 08833 receives any letters of objection within 30 days.

Timothy & Donna Riley (& children Thad & Margaret), 306 Landing Ct., Vincentown, NJ 08088 (609) 261-0381

German Shepherd Dogs- Kelly, Maxwell
Sponsors - Peg Forte
Joanne MacKinnon



TRACKING AND OBEDIENCE

by Richard Knapp

reprinted from the Tracking Club of Central Florida's *Cross Tracks*, April, 1994

I have often heard it said that no obedience or corrections should be used in tracking. That is all well and good to tell the novice tracker or the handler with a dog that is a natural, or a new tracker, but is it really good advice. In tracking we try to train our dogs to be dedicated to the scent and committed to the track until the end. But we also want our dogs to be obedient to the command to track, don't we?

Once a dog has learned to love to track, an element of obedience can be used - corrections! In early training we let our dogs get away with a lot of things and often do some leading and guiding in order to get the dog to the glove. If this type of training continues, a dog can learn to become dependent on the handler, knowing the handler will always resolve problems. A dog can also learn that it can track when it wants to. Positive reinforcement or inducement are common words in tracking and can solve most problems, but not all problems for all dogs and all handlers. This is especially true when you progress to TDX work.

About the only type of correction you need to learn in tracking is a tug on the line and a loud NO!, and the most common need for a correction is when the dog is distracted - not obedient to the command to track. Though we try to train our dogs to ignore potential distractions, there are some which are seldom encountered or too alluring to the dog

and which overcome the commitment and dedication to the track.

When your dog is distracted by a bird, you should only let the dog be distracted for a second before you tug on the line to get the dog's attention and give a loud NO! and the obedience command to track. When the dog gets back to work, a soft "good boy" can be used as gentle praise, and the glove will be the ultimate reward. You are in effect distracting the dog from the distraction and reminding the dog of its purpose for being in the field

with the harness on - to follow the scent. Now, you cannot pull a dog off a distraction at a Test, but if the dog knows that you mean by the word NO! and track, you can get the dog back to work vocally.

Those who train for cross tracks as a separate TDX exercise can also use the tug and NO in the same way. When you think about it, a cross track is actually a "scenting" distraction which can be handled just like any other distraction.

CORNERS & SCENT POOLS

reported by Ruth Ginzberg (RGINZBERG@EAGLE.WESLEYAN.EDU)

from a seminar by Mary Thompson,

on April 29-30, 1995

Tails-U-Win! Canine Center in Manchester, CT

reprinted from TRACKING Bulletin Board with poster's permission

I was just at a tracking clinic (Mary Thompson, tracking instructor at Camp Gone To The Dogs) at which it was suggested that many dogs have trouble with corners because track layers STOP at corners and stand there too long (while getting sights on next landmark, planting flag, etc.)

Mary believes that this causes a HUGE scent pool at corners, which just fills the (green) dog's nose with scent, and makes it harder for him to figure out WHICH way the track heads. She believes that after a dog has done corners like this enough times, it makes the dog DEVELOP corner problems, because the scent will be in a "shape" like this:

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*****
*****
***** scent
***** pool at
track ***** corner
*****
*****
*
*
track *
*
    
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..so the dog will start casting wide and losing confidence at corners, and looking to the handler for cues.

Her solution is:

- If tracklayer is to plant a corner flag, plant it 10 yards before the corner, not AT the corner.
- Have tracklayer KEEP WALKING at corner; learn to line up sights on next visual guide BEFORE actually turning the corner, & DON'T STOP.
- No food drops, scuffing, triple laying, etc. within 10-20 yards of the corner. i.e., give the dog room to **work the corner** without distractions at or near it. In other words, keep the "critical area" as "clean" as possible, with only un-pooled track scent; no scent pools, no food, no articles, no flags, no obstacles, no scuffing, etc. in the critical area where dog is *working* the corner, and preferably no rabbit holes, etc. in the "clean" area around the corner either.
- begin with wide angle corners and get them tighter & tighter until dog is comfortable with 90 degree or smaller angles. But don't start right angle corners until dog is doing other, larger angle corners comfortably.

I thought this was interesting, and different from the "usual" advice on teaching corners, but I'm giving it a try because I thought it made sense. I'll let you know how it works; so far, so good.

GOODBYE LITTLE CB

by Kathy Summers
Rodent Press, Boulder, CO.
(a book review by Peg Forte)

This insightful book was written to help the author with her struggle to heal after the death of her Shih Tzu, "CB." Summers, who lives in Hawaii has been working in the Hawaiian Humane Society's Animal Assisted Therapy Program for several years.

She dresses as a clown and visits children, their families and the staff of a children and women's hospital in Honolulu accompanied by a Golden Retriever named "Sasha" and two Shih Tzus named "CB" and "Lani". Kathy has also worked in a hospice.

"All my work with dying children and adults did not shelter me from the grief I experienced with his ('CB's') death," Kathy said. 'CB' was a pioneer in bringing the animal assisted therapy program to the hospital, he was the first dog allowed in the facility. "His life touched so many people with his unconditional love," she adds.

After "CB" was hit by a car and had to be put to sleep, Kathy had trouble dealing with his loss. She wrote "Goodbye Little CB," the "story of his life, the love he brought, the sorrow of his death and her struggle to heal" to help her through the grief process.

The book can do for the reader what Kathy wanted it to do for her, it can help young and old come to a better understanding of life, love, death and the resolution of the loss of a pet. The book makes the tears come to your eyes but it also has the power to heal the heart.

The 45 page book, illustrated with charming drawings is available by mail for \$5.00 plus \$1.50 postage and handling from Kathy Summers, 963 Holo Holo St., Kailua, HI 96734

P.S. I have been promising Pat for some time that I would write something for the newsletter, perhaps a book review I said, in a moment of weakness. Well the moment finally arrived when this non-pretentious book came across my desk at my new position at the Therapy Dogs International office. Answering a letter from the author to TDI was among the very first things I had to accomplish. I've already added a copy to my personal library.

AKC RULINGS ON SHOW DOGS

reprinted from *Bellwether*, Spring 1994,
the Newsmagazine of the School of
Veterinary Medicine of the University of
Pennsylvania
via the NJFDC August, 1994, newsletter

AKC's Dog Show Rules state that, "A dog is considered changed in appearance by artificial means if it has been subjected to any type of procedure that has the effect of obscuring, disguising or eliminating any congenital or hereditary abnormality or any undesirable characteristic or that does anything to improve a dog's natural appearance, temperament, bite or gait."

Owners and veterinarians often must decide if a surgical procedure would disqualify a dog from competition, especially with optional surgery.

A list of procedures undertaken to restore the health of a dog which would not, in themselves, render a dog ineligible to compete has been approved by AKC:

1. The repair of broken legs, even if such procedures involve the insertion of pins, plates or wires.
2. The removal of damaged cartilage.
3. The repair of ligaments that have been ruptured or been torn.
4. Cesarean sections.
5. The repair of umbilical hernias.
6. The removal of tumors or cysts.
7. Gastric torsion/bloat surgery.
8. Splenic torsion surgery.
9. Tonsillectomy.
10. Correction of "Cherry Eye" (which involves the *gland* of the nictitating membrane.)
11. Debarking.
12. The removal of dewclaws if a regular practice in the breed.

The following procedures would be considered changes in appearance by artificial means and make a dog ineligible to compete in shows:

1. The correction of entropion, ectropion, trichiasis, or distichiasis.
2. Trimming, removal or tattooing of the third eyelid (nictitating membrane).
3. The insertion of an eye prosthesis.
4. Correction of harelip, cleft palate, stenotic nares, or an elongated soft palate resection.

5. Any procedure to change ear set or carriage other than that permitted by the breed standard.
6. Restorative dental procedures, the use of bands or braces on teeth, or any alteration of the dental arcade.
7. The removal of excess skin folds or the removal of skin patches to alter markings.
8. Correction of inguinal, scrotal, or perineal hernias.
9. Surgery for hip dysplasia, O.C.D., patellar luxation, and femoral head resection.
10. Alteration of the location of the testes or the insertion of an artificial testicle.

11. Altering the set or the carriage of the tail.

Of course, the health and comfort of the dog should be a primary consideration. Inherited problems are a growing menace. Show dogs are considered breeding stock and should not have conditions which may be passed on to their offspring. Concealing defects by surgical intervention can only result in deterioration of a breed. AKC's Limited Registration provides for purebred companion animals.



WHEN YOU ENCOUNTER PROBLEMS ON THE TRACK

by Richard Knapp

Reprinted from the Tracking Club of Central Florida's Cross Tracks, April, 1994



How many times have you and your dog been enjoying a good tracking day and all of a sudden encounter a problem that cannot be worked out? All of us, I dare say, have encountered this all too often and we scratch our heads and wonder what the problem is. Was the track fouled? Is this a toxic waste area? Gene Conley would wonder what the barometer was doing.

John Barnard would be looking for electrical lines. Most of the time we will not find any definitive reason for the problem. While on the track in a test or in practice, it is not so much what caused the problem that matters but rather what are we going to do about it.

The best suggestion I can offer everyone is to get away from the area that is causing the problem before the dog gets too tired or frustrated to finish the track. This requires timing and an understanding of the dog. We always want to give our dogs a chance to work a problem out, and in practice we will even help the dog through the problem area. Why do we not do this at a Test? Why do we handle our dogs differently at a Test?

I know, I know. We all want to pass and the worst thing we can do is fail our dog by guiding it, but there comes a time in the field when waiting and doing nothing is worse for the dog than any whistle.

You have to know your dog and know how it tracks. Most dogs that overshoot a turn circle wide trying to find the scent. We are used to this in training and we are usually patient for a circle or two, and when the dog has not found the track, we back up a little in case we are well past the turn, and we give the dog a new area to search.

When the dog encounters a ground scenting distraction problem, the dog usually has his nose to the ground and is sniffing a small area and not circling wide. We should be patient for a while, as with the dog that overshoots, but if the dog is not working it out, we have to step past this area and encourage the dog to find the track scent.

No, there is no text book rule that everyone must follow when a dog encounters a problem on the track, in practice or at a Test. You have to know your dog, how it tracks, how long it can work, his frustration level, his training level, and scent conditions. The bottom line is what we must recognize a problem for what it is and act. To do nothing, or to wait too long to do something, accomplishes nothing positive.