



NEW ENGLAND DOG TRAINING CLUB

INCORPORATED

Member Of The American Kennel Club

BULLETIN

Fall, 2003

What are you grateful for today?...

Seminar with Suzanne Clothier (9/20-21) got off to a rough start mechanically but thanks to our new Training Director **Marjie Alonso** and her recording studio connections, that problem was soon remedied. What a weekend it was! At first, I had thought "How is this lady going to talk and be interesting for 16 hours"; 2 days is a very long time. Well, not only did she do it, she did it with style, great humor and left us wanting more – way more!

If Dogs Could Speak was the subject of the Saturday session. In a nutshell, "It's about the relationship between the two ends of the leash." **Suzanne** took us through the complexities of our relationships with our dogs and invited us to "See the dog." Look at the dog and learn to read what he is telling you. Is his eye hard, his ears back, maybe twitching? Is his stance firm? Where is he focused? She points out that dogs are always telling us how they are at any given moment; we have to pay attention to their signals. Are they fearful, happy, calm, in pain? She challenged us to see our own dogs and learn what they are trying to say. She also challenged us to be clear in our messages to our dogs. They don't understand about fights with your boss. So they take your bad mood when you yell at them for doing the dance of joy upon your arrival home very personally. She challenged us to be as honest with our dogs as they are with us. For myself, Suzanne helped me see that while my relationships with my dogs are not without room for improvement, they are at the same time, wonderful to the max. In thinking back, remembering how damaged a few had been when they came to me, I realize how very special that road that we traveled (and continue to travel) was (and is). The work that needs doing has to start with the human end of the leash and the wish that we could all "see our dog". Remember. They will always tell you the truth.

On Sunday (**Understanding Performance Problems**) she addressed specific performance problems of

seminar participants and their dogs. There was **Maddie** with **Sirrie**, a great little lab. Then a Tibetan Mastiff who was not thrilled that his owner walked away with **Sky** in tow, but who, being a Tibetan, showed little emotion. **Suzanne's** grasp of the intricacies of breed specific behaviors (or, in the case of the Tibetan, the lack thereof), helped us "see the dog". The Tibetan was not going to react like a silly ninny. That would be soooo un-Tibetan. Then there was a bearded puppy, who was one spin away from becoming airborne until **Suzanne** took the leash and gently invited her to control herself, which she did in a few short minutes. That was magic.

Suzanne taught us how to "treat and retreat" when dealing with a shy dog. In this exercise, rather than approach the dog, you toss a treat and then back up a little. As the dog comes closer on his own (showing more confidence) you keep backing up, but not so much. Soon, the dog will be coming right up to you. As with most obedience training, the hardest one to teach is the human. The owner of the shy dog couldn't quite get the backing up thing working. **Suzanne** chalked it up to his being from Cambridge!

She taught us to distract the dog away from unwanted behavior and redirect to more appropriate behavior and then to give the dog a "pahty" of treats and praise when he moves in the direction you want.

Suzanne worked her magic on a couple of shelter dogs from Quincy, both up for adoption but needed some work before they could be placed. We saw first hand how important grown up dogs are to the development of puppies and how they are helped to learn appropriate puppy manners. One of the shelter dogs was a "bodywagging" 6 mos old pitbull/lab mix who had been placed but returned due to his high energy/activity level. He just had no idea when to stop. Suzanne called for puppy-savvy dogs, and I volunteered **Sky** who is "uncle" to two puppies.

Suzanne had me drop Sky's leash and let him deal with the pup who was just thrilled to the bones to have **Sky** to play with (and jump around and on etc.). It was interesting for me to see how patient **Sky** was with this boy and how he told him when his behavior was inappropriate. **Sky's** brother **Noah** then took center stage. He was less tolerant of the pup's antics than **Sky** was, but just as appropriate in his dealing with the situation. It was interesting to see how the puppy listened to the older dog. **Suzanne** pointed out how appropriate all the dogs were being in the situation - the teachers and the student. She noted that growling, air snapping and posturing were all part of the language of the adult to get the point across to the pup in a way he could understand.

A mesmerizing event!

Attendees were unanimous in their gratitude to the Club for bringing **Suzanne** to Cambridge. **Rachel Paige Elliott**, a long-time member, author of books on dog movement and who, in 1939, put the first UD on a Golden in the US, was thrilled to be there. She told me how happy she was that [her] club was in such good hands.

Something like this does not happen by itself and I would be remiss if I did thank profusely those "good hands" that **Paigie Elliott** spoke of. **Jean Berman**, (our Treasurer) was the contact person for every registration and inquiry. Not an easy job, but one that was very well done. **Sharon Long** (Club Photographer), captured the event with her photos and they now grace our website. **Nancy Thompson**, as Seminar Chairperson, coordinated the whole shebang, calling vendors about lunches and running back and forth to Costco to get the best deal on the other goodies. She definitely deserves special kudos. She suffered over every detail, and every detail was perfect.

And there were those of you who helped with running errands, mailing (and e-mailing) brochures, setting up, taking down etc. Thanks to you all!! Great job.

For me, the highlight of the whole event was dinner with **Suzanne, Nancy, Linda and Gert**. It was so nice to kick back with my friends and this phenomenal lady who knows and loves dogs so well.

And what did Suzanne think of us:

Let me share with you an excerpt from her email to me shortly after the seminar.

"Thank you for being part of a really wonderful group - the intelligence, dedication, humor and skill that each of you bring to your classes shines through loud & clear. A true pleasure for me to work with you all."

It will be hard to follow this event, but we are going to try. At the November Board meeting, it was unanimously approved that the Club engage seminar speakers for 2004 and 2005. We are currently in negotiations with **Pia Silvani** for October 2004 and **Patricia McConnell** is on our short list for 2005. Details as they become available.

UPI - 10/03: To Vaccinate or Not to Vaccinate.. US Vaccine protocols change. (This came from **Liz Sullivan**, our AKC Rep, who got it thru on the AKC Parent Club list.) The following is taken from the April/May Newsletter of the Senior Dogs Project: And we quote:

NEW TRAINING SCHEDULE - ALL CLASSES - STARTING 12/18/03! The classes are growing to the point that we need to add another hour to the schedule to accommodate those who are more advanced than Advanced Beginners, but not quite ready for the ring preparation of Novice. The plan to be implemented is as follows:

6:30pm to 7:20pm

Beginners - Pat **Open** - Ruth (w/extra space for heeling & recalls)

7:30pm to 8:20pm

Puppy - Linda
Adv. Beginners - Pat **Utility** - **Beginner** - Joice
Ruth

8:30:pm to 9:20pm

Pre-Novice - Pat **Novice/Ring Prep** - Linda

Zero Night will be combined for all Beginners, at **6:30pm** in the Puppy Classroom. For all subsequent classes, students will attend at the hour assigned (Those in Pat's class will meet at 6:30pm and those in Joice's class at 7:30pm).

The requirements for class admission:

Puppy Kindergarten is for puppies between the ages of 2 months to 5 ½ months and will focus on socialization, basic obedience and responsible dog ownership. This class is not a family event, but children over five may attend with parents. Adults are expected to train and handle their dogs, but encouraged to let children participate. There is a short window of opportunity to help your young pup learn and to be the dog you want. Many tips and information will be given and questions encouraged.

Beginner Class is for any dog over the age of 5 ½ months. There is no upper age limit for dogs. We are firm believers that you can teach an old dog new tricks! The owner/handler must be able to physically handle the class exercises and maintain control of their dog. There is a strong emphasis on attention exercises in this class as well as the basic obedience exercises of heel, sit, down, stay, stand and recall)

Advanced Beginners Drop-in class for handlers who have taken a beginners class and have a working knowledge of the fundamental exercises (heel, sit, down, stay, stand and recall), and who wish to continue training but are not ready for a competition level class. Emphasis here is on fine tuning the exercises learned at the Beginner level in order to achieve better control and a more clear-cut response from the dog.

In the past, this class has been open to anyone who has previously trained a dog (not necessarily the one they are presently working with). It used to be said that "Advanced" referred to the handler and "Beginner" referred to the dog. The recommendation is that the dog and handler take one of our Beginner Classes before entering Advanced Beginner.

Pre-Novice is being opened to accommodate handlers who have achieved control of their dogs and who are ready to being fine tuning their performance. Emphasis here is on control and precision. The transition will be to off-lead heeling. Off-lead exercises, as appropriate, will include recall, finish, long sit, long down and stand for examination. You will begin to work on body posture, footwork and how to give your dog the right information by the way you perform.

Ring Prep Novice will prepare handlers to enter the obedience ring with a full understanding of obedience

trial rules, knowing when you and your dog are ready to enter AKC trials, preparing for the day of the show and an understanding of what the judges expect and look for. You will learn cues, body posture, foot work and how to give your dog the leading edge in the ring.

Open and Utility. Even though these classes are the most advanced of the obedience classes, Ruth Ivers' wants you to know that the only requirement for participation is off-leash control of your dog. It is never too early to begin to teach the exercises involved in these classes and Ruth invites anyone who would like to add a little spice to their training routine to join her in the center ring. If in doubt, check with Ruth or your instructor.

Fees Are Going Up Starting Jan. 1, 2004.

Increasing costs to the club require that fees be increased to cover them. The Board of Governors approved the following increases:

Puppy Kindergarten	\$110
Beginners	\$ 95
Drop-in (all other classes:	\$ 7 for members
	\$ 10 (non-member)
Training Card	\$ 35 (for 6 lessons)

NEDTC Christmas Party will be on Dec. 18th -

Classes will be held as usual, but there will be plenty of holiday refreshments, dog cookies, and good cheer. This is Zero night for Puppy Kindergarten and Beginners, so there will be time and space to enjoy the festivities. Please plan on joining in. And if you can cook, any and all donations of goodies will be happily received by canines and humans. This will be our last meeting until after the New Year, so please - Come and enjoy.

Dog News Around the Globe: National. Are you Confused About Vaccinations? This just in from Liz Sullivan and her sources at AKC. All Veterinary Schools in North America Changing Vaccination Protocols. Recent editions of the Senior Dogs Project's newsletter have reported on the ever-broadening **trend of eliminating vaccinations for adult dogs**, except for rabies, where required by state law.

"We have now had a report that all 27 veterinary schools in North America are in the process of

changing their protocols for vaccinating dogs and cats.

"Here, in a nutshell, are the new guidelines under consideration:

"Dogs and cats immune systems mature fully at 6 months. If a modified live virus (MLV) vaccine is given after 6 months of age, it produces immunity, which is good for the life of the pet (i.e., canine distemper, parvo, feline distemper). If another MLV vaccine is given a year later, the antibodies from the first vaccine neutralize the antigens of the second vaccine and there is little or no effect. The titer is not 'boosted' nor are more memory cells induced.

"Not only are annual boosters for parvo and distemper unnecessary, they subject the pet to potential risks of allergic reactions and immune-mediated hemolytic anemia. There is no scientific documentation to back up label claims for annual administration of MLV vaccines. Puppies receive antibodies through their mothers milk. This natural protection can last 8 - 14 weeks. Puppies and kittens should NOT be vaccinated at LESS than 8 weeks. Maternal immunity will neutralize the vaccine and little protection (0-38%) will be produced.

"Vaccination at 6 weeks will, however, delay the timing of the first highly effective vaccine. Vaccinations given 2 weeks apart suppress rather than stimulate the immune system. A series of vaccinations is given starting at 8 weeks and given 3-4 weeks apart up to 16 weeks of age. Another vaccination given sometime after 6 months of age (usually at 1 year 4 months) will provide lifetime immunity."

FMI see the website at <http://www.canine-health-concern.org.uk/>

On the International Front. Italy restricts 92 dog breeds

ROME, Sept. 15, 2003 (UPI) -- A new law in Italy has placed 92 dog breeds on a restricted list, banning their ownership by children or convicted criminals, a report said Monday.

The legislation was passed by emergency decree after a series of pit bull attacks made front-page headlines this summer.

The new "threatening" category includes Dobermans, bull mastiffs and German shepherds, corgis, collies, St. Bernards and pit bulls, of which there are about 16,000 in Italy.

It also includes Newfoundlands, a breed with a reputation for mildness, although Staffordshire bull terriers and their American relation are not on the list, the London Telegraph reported.

Minors, delinquents and criminals who have caused harm to people or animals are barred from owning such dogs, the law states. In cases of illegal possession, it provides for the animal's seizure.

CROSSINGS:

A fairly new member, **Lucy Grant - Ruane's GSP Holly** was suddenly called to the Rainbow Bridge in September. She was just 7 and had been in seemingly good health. Although relatively new to dog training, **Lucy** and **Holly** were a team that made it look like they had been at it for years.. **Lucy** showed **Holly** in breed, and had gotten her Championship. She had her CDX and was working on her UD. As friend **Joanie Muse** said, "**Holly** was a great and gentle dog, a real lady."

Judy Bailey's little boy **Anthony** passed away on October 9th. We are so missing **Anthony**, the little dancing poodle. The thing that struck me most about **Anthony** was his absolute joy for life. Being handicapped did not slow him down a bit. Call his name and he would break into the dance of joy and rush to you to be petted. What a special little guy.

Members who have crossed...

Long time member **Leonard Kaplan** passed away recently. He and his wife **Janet** were active in Elkhounds. Our condolences go out to Janet and her family. For those who would like to send a note to Janet, her address is 280 Newtonville Ave., Newton MA 02460

TOUCH ME

Touch me with your voice as a puppy young and new,
And let me know my presence is what is pleasing you.

Touch me with your spirit, for God sent me here to you,
To teach you of that precious bond known by the choicest few.

Touch me with your hands as I grow tall and strong,
I need you as my mentor through out my whole life
long.

Touch me with your lips, and brush them softly on my
brow,
Please kiss away the fears that I am feeling now.

Touch me with your eyes as I become full grown,
To validate unspoken love that we have always known.

Touch me with your heart as our bond keeps growing
stronger
And words need not be used in our language any
longer.

Touch me with your breath, so soft and warm upon my
face,
As I try to bring you comfort in life's never ending
race.

Touch me with your love when my muzzle turns to
gray,
I live my life to please you, each and every single day.

Touch me with your scent when age has dimmed my
sight,
To reassure me always that you will be my light.

Touch me with your face when your tears are meant
for me,
So I may bear your pain and let your heart be free.

Touch me with remembrance when I have traveled on,
And, I will hold your heart in mine forever when I 'm
gone.

Author Unknown

Until next time,

Pat "Scoop" Sullivan

PS: See you at the NEDTC Fall Trial, 11/16/03 in
Franklin, MA. Come in support; cheer our members on
to success. Be there or be square!