RAMAPO KENNEL CLUB

GROWL

ESTABLISHED 1958 FEBRUARY 2021

WHO WILL TAKE CARE OF YOUR DOG IF YOU CAN'T?

By Harriet Meyers

When you get a dog, you commit to providing loving care throughout your canine companion's lifetime. For a responsible owner, this includes planning who will care for your dog if you become incapacitated or die before the dog does.

This is not a happy thought, but if you take the necessary and proper steps to figure it out, you will sleep better at night knowing you've provided for your best canine friend, no matter what happens to you.

Consider Breeder Contract Requirements

If you bought your dog from a reputable breeder who had you sign a contract, chances are there's a provision in the contract that covers what happens to your dog if something happens to you. Many contracts stipulate that in case of your death, the dog is to be returned to the breeder, who will find it a good home. Breeder contracts with reasonable requirements are legally enforceable.

Life happens to the best of us — including illness and death — and the breeder wants to be notified. Many breeders may agree for the dog to live with another loving family member or close friend, but will still want to know about any change of ownership. They want the new owners to understand that they are available to provide guidance and advice. Breeders also want to know if any problems develop throughout the dog's lifetime.

Decide What Will Happen

If you haven't signed a contract with a breeder who will take responsibility for your dog, or you would like the breeder's permission to plan a new home for your dog with someone who already loves her, here's what you should consider.

Who will love and care for your dog? It's important not to assume that your family members would want your dog on a permanent basis. Leaving your dog to someone should not be a surprise. Talk to the people you're considering and be sure they really are willing to take your pet and are capable of caring for him.

Next, find an alternate. Your first choice person might move away, retire and travel, or encounter other changes in circumstance. So it's a good idea to identify a second, backup caretaker. And if the people you have chosen don't live close by, you might want to designate a neighbor who is willing to care for your dog briefly in an emergency until your long-term provider can get there.

Provide both caretakers with documented proof that you've chosen them. The people you choose must have access to a legal paper declaration from you that will be accepted as giving them permission to rehome the dog. In an emergency situation, they may be required to show this to a shelter in order to have the dog released to them.

Continued on p. 6

In this issue:

Who will take care of your dog?.**1, 6**

President's Message.....**2**

January 2021 Minutes.....**3**

Make your own dog balm.....**4**

Kommander's Korner. **4**

Conf. and Obedience Training.....**5**

Brags, etc..... **7-8**

President's Message

Gerrie Oliver

It's February! For me, turning the page of the calendar brings me one step closer to Spring. I love the longer days—even if it is just minutes, and the prospect of warmer weather to come. But I must admit that my dogs absolutely love the snow. Hope yours do, too.

Looking for something to do during the cold, snowy month of February? How about a Virtual Home Manners (VHM) title for your bored puppy or adult? AKC has come out with the next step in training your AKC S.T.A.R. Puppy or any dog through a brand new virtual testing opportunity. Virtual Home Manners (VHM). Ten skills necessary for any well-mannered dog!

Hope everyone is well and Covid-free. In the interest of safety and good health for all our members, RKC will once again hold its monthly Membership Meeting on Wednesday, February 10th, at 8:00 PM, via Zoom. Jeffrey Ball has kindly offered his help in setting up the meeting since he has no restrictions on his account and we can talk as long as we like. (Apologies to those members who got cut off last meeting because of my limited Zoom time and thanks for their patience in calling back to continue. I confess technology is not my friend.) Please watch your inbox for an invitation from Jeffrey to join us.

There will be a short Board Meeting just prior to the Membership Meeting. Board Members should look for a Zoom Meeting invitation from me to join.

Ramapo Kennel Club Officers

President
Gerrie Oliver
olivergerrie@gmail.com

Vice President
Rita Marchese

Treasurer
Ruth Henningsen

Recording Secretary
Kristin Pierson

Corresponding Secretary
Tilly Grassa
tgcreative@aol.com

Board of Directors
2021
Cindy Pierson
Denis Johnson
Sharon Fremer

2022
Elaine Barone
Lorraine Fennemore
Tim Dewar

AKC Delegate
Jeffrey David Ball

Minutes

Ramapo Kennel Club
Membership Meeting (1/13/2021)

Call to Order
The Membership meeting of Ramapo Kennel Club was held on Wednesday, the 13th of January, via teleconference. The meeting was called to order at 8:15 PM and was presided over by Gerrie Oliver.

Attendees
Members in attendance included Gerrie Oliver, Rita Marchese, Ruth Henningsen, Lorraine Fennemore, Tilly Grassa, Antoniette Coviello, Denis Johnson, Elaine Barone, Kristin Pierson, Cindy Pierson, and Sue Chandler.

Approval of Minutes
Minutes from December approved motion made by Lorraine and seconded by Tilly.

Officers' Reports
Corresponding Secretary- nothing to report.
Treasurer- Ruth Henningsen reported that the checking balance was $14,408.38 and the Money Market was $25,932.57.

Other Reports
Sunshine: Lorraine spoke with Rose Radel and she's doing much better.

Membership: Gerrie reached out to Tim Dewar, membership chair and he's been unresponsive. Gerrie also mentioned that she is disappointed in the welcome process for new members. Lorraine mentioned that Janice Hayes may be interested in helping and that there may have been a welcome packet. Lorraine will also look into getting prices for new RKC shirts, hoodies, blankets and possibly bags.

Obedience Classes: 6 new registrations for KPT; nothing for beginner obedience.

Show Handling: 4 new people interested in class.

AKC/Federation: elections will be held in March and will be done online. New Jersey Senate Bill 2868, which seeks to create court-appointed legal advocates for animals was discussed; also brought to the Senate was the bill regarding trunk fighting; also being discussed is a board approved Veterinarian being the only person allowed to do an IA breeding.

Old Business
We will be using Zoom for our meetings going forward for the time being.

New Business
Tilly mentioned the passing of photographer Rob Gerity who was our show photographer for many years, and the possibility of a memorial at our next show.

Our next meeting will be via Zoom. We will also have a board meeting next month and March. The Board meeting will be at 7 pm.

Adjournment
Motion made by Ruth and seconded by Sue Chandler at 9:06 pm.

HOW TO MAKE YOUR OWN DOG PAW BALM

By Liz Donovan via AKC

To some dogs (especially breeds built for cold weather), there's nothing more exciting than a romp around a snowy yard after a winter storm. But icy conditions of the yard or cold pavements can be damaging a pet's paws.

The national breed club for the Newfoundland, a large breed built for wintery work, shared with AKC a DIY paw balm recipe, which the club recommends.

Supplies

- 21-24 standard lip balm tubes OR 6 1-oz. tins
- 2a small digital kitchen scale, optional
- 2small pot or double boiler

Ingredients

- 22 oz. (approx. 2 tbsp.) olive, sunflower, or sweet almond oil
- 22 oz. (approx. 2 tbsp.) coconut oil (buy on amazon)
- 21 oz. (approx. 1 tbsp.) shea butter (buy on amazon)
- 24 tsp. beeswax (buy on amazon)

Directions

1. In a small pot or double boiler over low heat melt the oils, shea butter, and beeswax. Stir continuously until all is melted and well blended.
2. Carefully pour the mixture into lip balm tubes and/or tins. (buy on amazon)
3. Let them cool on the counter until hard.
4. Cap and label.
5. Keep away from extreme heat.
6. Apply the balm as a preventive treatment or to help soften dry paw pads or noses. Use within 1 to 2 years.

KOMMANDER'S KORNER

Hi Friends,

It's your friendly "northern" breed dog, Kommander. This last week has been a wonderful experience for me. I got to play in the snow. (Lots and Lots and Lots of Snow) Because I have a very thick coat of fur, I enjoy being outside when it is snowing. My fur and feet seem to attract ice balls. Mom has the kitchen floor loaded with old towels, so I don't make it too wet when I finally come inside. Sometimes the snow balls that stick around my neck and chest look like I am wearing a large white pearl necklace.

Since I am not the most obedient dog, I rarely come inside at Moms first call. It usually takes a bribe of a Greenie or a dog treat to coax me inside. I do love the rub down with the big towels, but I don't really like the snow balls removed from between my toes. You might consider me high maintenance, but I know that Mom loves to interact with her favorite 100+ pound "baby" boy.

Oh well, time to take a nap now. All the playing in the snow has made me sleepy. It's also time for Mom to throw the wet towels into the washer.

Love,
Kommander.

CONFORMATION HANDLING CLASS

Ramapo Kennel Club show handling classes, 7-8pm at the VFW Post #8096, 69 Carey Ave., Butler, NJ.

Due to the club having to limit class sizes and maintain social distancing please contact Kristin Pierson at *piersonKn@hotmail.com* to register for these classes, as she will be keeping a list of all students attending. Masks must be worn, and there will be a waiver to sign.

Show Handling dates 2021:

January 19

February 2, 16

March 2, 16, 30

April 6, 20, 27

OBEDIENCE CLASSES 20201

Session 1

January 20, 27

February 3, 17, 24

March 3

Session 2

March 17, 24, 31

April 7, 21, 28

JACK GRASSA

FOR CLASS INFORMATION CONTACT:
Ruth Hennigsen 973-697-9456 *ruthh.sno-dog@optimum.net,*
Elaine Barone 973-492-1876 *elaineb.bowow@juno.com*
Rita Marchese 551-404-2545 *rita0360m@live.com*

Who Will Take Care of Your Dog if You Can't?

continued from page 1

Make It Legal

In the eyes of the law, your pet is an item of property, and when you die, he will have a new owner. You can make your decision on who that new owner should be legally binding by including it in your will or living trust.

A pet provision in your will or trust will specify who should care for your dog when you are gone and can also set aside funds for the care of your dog. We all know that providing proper care for our dogs can get expensive, so if you are able to, leaving some money to the person you're trusting with your dog to cover those costs is a good idea.

Pet provision statements included in your will can be very simple. For example:

- If I am incapacitated or die and can no longer care for my dog, Molly, I leave her to my friend Jane Doe. If Jane Doe can't care for Molly, I leave her to my friend Bob Smith.
- If my dog, Molly, is alive at my death or I become incapacitated, I leave her and $10,000 to be used for her care to Jane Doe. If Jane Doe is unable to care for Molly, I leave the dog and the $10,000 to be used for her care to Bob Smith.

This article is not meant to provide legal advice. State laws pertaining to animals and trusts vary, so consulting a lawyer in your state is the best insurance that you're doing it correctly.

Inform Others of Your Wishes

It's important to make absolutely sure that your close relatives and friends know what arrangements you've made, so your dog doesn't end up in a shelter, even temporarily, when he's already confused about where you are.

The National Institute on Aging advises getting your affairs in order now. Most people don't plan to get sick or die, but emergencies happen. Being prepared can give you some peace of mind. Here's what they recommend:

- Put all of your important papers in one place, and let at least one trustworthy person who is close to you know where to find them. Be sure to keep them up-to-date.
- Include information about your dog: breeder contact information, designated pet provider, veterinarian, health, and care information.
- The file should include the name of your lawyer, executor, or whomever will be responsible for making sure your wishes are carried out.

Another way to protect your pets is to make sure contact information for someone who can care for them is readily visible to anyone who comes into your home to help you in an emergency. Post it on your refrigerator, bulletin board, and emergency contact list. You can also carry a wallet pet emergency card that will alert caregivers that you have a pet at home and whom they can contact.

Don't procrastinate – make plans for the care of your pets as soon as possible. You'll rest easier knowing they'll be loved and cared for until they die, no matter what may happen to you.

Brags. Etc.

Kristin Pierson's Wheaten Ellie, enjoying the snow by sticking her face in it.

For RKC breeders who ship or receive fresh chilled semen, I have a number of insulated shipping boxes to give away. I know that I had to pay up to $50 for them. Call or text me if you want them. 201-316-4927.

Betty McDonnell

Got Stuff?

Send your stories, news, brags, suggestions, comments and photos to Tilly Grassa, *tgcreative@aol.com*. Remember the *Growl* comes out about a week before each monthly meeting. Submissions are due two weeks before the meeting. The *Growl* is by and for the members so I need your help to make it interesting.

RAMAPO KENNEL CLUB GROWL

Published by the Ramapo Kennel Club
7 Morgan Court
Wayne, NJ 07470

Designer/Editor/Photographer:
Tilly Grassa/TGCreative Services
tgcreative@aol.com
973-633-5254