RAMAPO KENNEL CLUB

GROWL

ESTABLISHED 1958 JUNE 2020

SHELTERING AT HOME DURING THE PANDEMIC

By Betty McDonnell

As most of us are learning, our dogs are delighted with our sheltering at home. I have been on a learning curve, learning to understand what my dogs are telling me. I guess that I was not paying careful attention to their body language before. They are making many requests of me, and I find that they are enjoying their roll change. They actually come to me at bedtime and ask to go out. But I really know that they are just looking for that good-night cookie — a little earlier each night.

Betty with Hazel following a scent.

On the other hand, I am taking this at home time to teach new activities. Tracking is an AKC dog sport where a dog is taught to follow a scent path to find a dropped object. A tracking dog title (TD) is awarded to a dog who can pass a test judged by two licensed tracking judges. A dog must first be certified by a judge who will testify that the dog is ready to be tested in order to enter a trial. The dog must follow the scent of a tracklayer that is between thirty minutes and two hours old, over a track that is between 440 and 500 yards long, to find a glove dropped by a tracklayer. The track must include three to five turns.

I offered tracking experience to all four of my dogs, and found that Hazel, 10 years old, seemed the most enthusiastic. Training is very time consuming, and even staying at home, I am capable of only training one dog at a time. In past years I had earned tracking titles on four Newfoundlands. Absolutely no sport is more satisfying than to follow behind a dog that is enthusiastically using his vey special olfactory ability to follow an aged track and find a glove dropped by a tracklayer. You can not force a dog to track; you must be able to let him do what comes naturally with no guidance from the handler. Indeed, the handler will not know where the track

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President's Message

Gerrie Oliver

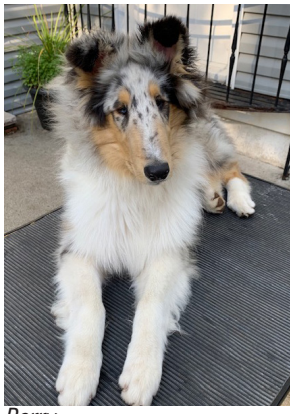
I hope this finds everyone safe and well. In this continuing era of staying at home and wearing masks in public, I'm happy to report that Ramapo Kennel Club continues to meet through regular conference calling. While we can't really see each other, it sure is good to be able to talk with each other and still take care of business. It is also a good opportunity for those members who are too far away or have difficulty driving at night to join us.

The May meeting voting results and the complete list of Officers and Board Members are announced in the May minutes on the next page. These Officers and Board Members represent you by also representing a wide variety of breeds from Great Danes, Cardigan Welsh Corgi's, Siberian Huskies, Soft Coated Wheaton's, Great Pyrenees, Norwich Terriers, Cavaliers and Collies!

Sincere thanks to outgoing President Sharon Fremer for all the work she did over these last eight years, and to all the hard-working members who have served in the past.

Although this is my first time as President I have been a member of RKC since 2009, served in a number of capacities and look forward to working together with this amazing new team to continue in the long-standing traditions of Ramapo Kennel Club.

There are no regular meetings through the summer, but the Board is scheduled to meet on August 11th. One of the key items we will discuss is the AKC's reminder to update By-Laws to remain in compliance in this new age of virtual communication.



Perry

Speaking of virtual, the Collie Club of Northern New Jersey will be hosting its very first UN-Matched Fun Match on June 21st. Exhibitors will videotape their dogs as if on exam and in typical ring patterns and submit them electronically. A well-known collie judge has agreed to review them and award the ribbons. I'm entering "Perry" (pictured right) so I'll have to let you know how this 6 month does on his first time in the ring!

Next Membership Meeting is set for September when we expect to (finally) host the Annual Awards Pot Luck Dinner. I really hope to see you then!

Ramapo Kennel Club Officers

President
Gerrie Oliver
teneo@mac.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 (5/13/2020)

Call to Order
The Membership meeting of Ramapo Kennel Club was held on Wednesday, 13th of May, via teleconference. The meeting was called to order at 8:14 PM and was presided over by Sharon Fremer.

Attendees
Members in attendance included, Jeffrey Ball, Gerrie Oliver, Cindy Pierson, Ruth Henningsen, Elaine Barone, Tilly Grassa, Kristin Pierson, Lorraine Fennemore, Rita Marches, Kim Luiker, Mary Gallagher and Elizabeth Smith.

Approval of Minutes
March Minutes approved; motion made by Sharon Fremer and seconded by Jeffrey Ball. April meeting minutes need to add mention of proposed June pot luck as our awards dinner, also add donation in Ann's memory to the Seeing Eye.

Officers' Reports:
Corresponding Secretary
Tilly Grassa reported there was no correspondence this month besides the AKC notices she previously emailed.

Treasurer
The Treasurer Report was presented by Ruth Henningsen, the checking balance was $ 12,758. and the Money Market was $25,927.56. Refund of $960 for classes since we couldn't finish our sessions. Obedience & Rally classes made $1,972.82 and show handling was a small loss of $117.

Other Reports
Sunshine: RKC will be making a donation to the American Cancer Society of $100 in memory of Cindy McMillen. A motion was made by Lorraine Fennemore, seconded by Gerrie Oliver. Lucinda Meeker passed away and Lorraine sent a condolence card.

Membership: N/A
Obedience Classes: N/A
Show Handling: N/A

AKC/Federation: Jeffrey Ball reported that AKC has sent out safety precautions and the Georgia cluster is going ahead.

Awards: N/A

Old Business
Awards: The Awards Presentation will be held at our September meeting. A vote was taken and all were in favor.

New Business:
Canine Chronicle hosts a breed review via facebook at 2pm on Sundays.

Annual Election:
NEW 2020 - 2022 TERMS:
President - Gerrie Oliver*
Treasurer - Ruth Henningsen*

FILLING EXPIRING TERM:
Vice President - Rita Marchese

REMAINING TERMS THRU 2021:
Recording Secretary - Kristin Pierson
Corresponding Secretary - Tilly Grassa

CLASS OF 2021:
Cindy Pierson, Denis Johnson & Sharon Fremer* (as outgoing President)

CLASS OF 2022:
Elaine Barone*, Lorraine Fennimore* & Tim Dewar*
(*Since there was no opposition, the Recording Secretary cast one ballot for the slate as presented on 5/13/10.)

Adjournment: Motion made by Jeffrey and seconded by Lorraine at 9:04 pm.

SHELTERING AT HOME, *continued from page 1*

goes or where the turns are.

Sheltering at home, I am the track layer and I mark the turns. I try to observe my dog's style of following a scent path. As I begin, I only move forward when I know that the dog is on the track. Only when my dog can follow a track that is at least 200 yards long and fifteen minutes old, do I start to introduce turns. Actually many trainers start their dogs tracking on their own scent, for it is not easy to find another who has time to lay tracks for you. And if you work with a partner, you have to factor in the time that you will spend laying tracks for their dog as well.

To date, Hazel is still very enthusiastic about doing what comes naturally. She also has the incentive of a huge jackpot of treats when she finds the dropped glove and races back to me with the treasure. I will have to progress to strangers laying tracks and finding areas available for longer tracks. But title or not, we are having fun, and it is good exercise for the two of us.

A MESSAGE FROM KOMMANDER

Hi Guys and Gals,

It's me, Kommander, the Great Pyrenees puppy. I am only 6½ months old now, but my weight has ballooned to over 70 pounds. Everyone says I am going to be a "big boy". My Mom threatens to put me on a diet, but I eat everything in sight. I started "nibbling"on a throw rug in the kitchen, but I didn't swallow it, because it did not taste good. I tried eating something that came out of big sister, Kiwi's butt. It didn't taste too bad, but Mom got all upset. Now she cleans the back yard twice a day. I guess she is worried about my weight.

I still also like to dig holes, especially after it has rained. I move the stones away and the dirt underneath is nice and black. Mom has a special water bucket to dip my paws into before she lets me back into the house. Then it is crate time until my feet are dry. I don't mind because I always get a treat when I go into my crate. I have got Mom trained. Life is good here. I think I will sit and stay.

Love,
Kommander

Submiteed by Lorraine Fennemore

U.S. CONGRESS: AKC LAUDS INTRODUCTION OF HEALTHY DOG IMPORTATION ACT TO PROTECT ANIMAL AND PUBLIC HEALTH

By AKC Government Relations

The American Kennel Club welcomes the introduction today of the Healthy Dog Importation Act of 2020 in the U.S. House of Representatives.

AKC is grateful for the bi-partisan leadership of Congressmen Abraham (LA-5), Schrader (OR-5) and Yoho (FL-3) in sponsoring the bill, and believes this will go a long way to addressing concerns about recent documented incidents of unhealthy dogs being imported into the U.S.

"In the last several years, zoonotic diseases such as rabies, canine influenza and distemper have been carried into the U.S. by dogs imported without basic veterinary checks or valid health certificates. With an estimated one million dogs entering the U.S. annually, this represents a ticking time bomb for animal and public health," said Dennis Sprung, AKC President and CEO.

"The basic health certifications that this bill requires for every dog imported will protect the health and wellbeing of all dogs in our nation – and the humans who care for them."

AKC also thanks the National Animal Interest Alliance for their long-time leadership on the issue, and the American Veterinary Medical Association for their support.

Background:

The U.S. demand for pet dogs—without accounting for population growth—is more than 8 million dogs annually. U.S. Breeders are unable to meet this demand. Instead, approximately one million dogs are imported annually into the U.S., according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Exponential growth in the import of dogs – particularly from unregulated sources – has resulted in dogs with non-native parasites and zoonotic diseases such as rabies, viral infections and brucellosis being imported and passed into the general public, creating a significant threat to the health of other dogs, animals and the humans who care for them.

The American Kennel Club recognizes the value of importing breeding stock from overseas, freedom of choice in selecting a pet, and ensuring that people may travel with their pets with a minimum of disruption. However, we are also concerned about the increasing documented incidences of the importation of unhealthy random-source pets, particularly for transfer, where public and pet health may be inadequately protected.

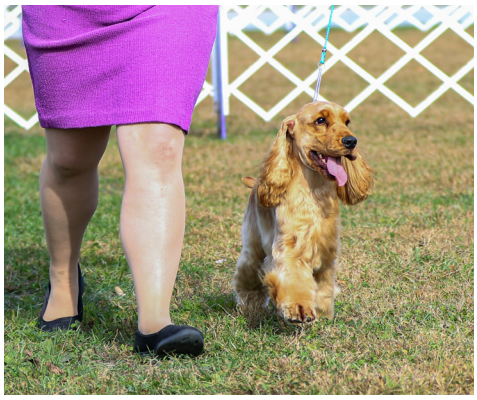
Current pet import oversight mechanisms administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and U.S. Customs were established prior to the exponential growth in imports and are unable to adequately check canine health upon entry or protect against the public and animal health threat this represents.

AKC supports efforts to ensure that all dogs imported into the United States are fully immunized; free of infection, parasites and contagious diseases; and are individually certified as such by a qualified veterinarian. We look forward to working with the sponsors to advance this important safeguard for pet and public health.

Staying Connected in Conformation While Staying at Home

By Allan Reznik for AKC

For however long we will be managing without dog shows, it's vitally important that we remain engaged in our sport. Not only will it keep our own dogs ready to compete when the time comes, but it will do wonders for our morale, reminding us we are not alone in this situation. Here are some suggestions to keep you motivated while we patiently wait for shows to restart.



JACK GRASSA

Prepping the puppies

Just because we can't attend a handling class doesn't mean we can overlook our puppies' socialization and early exposure to dog show routine. Pack your van with a crate, grooming table, and pop-up tent, and drive to a quiet park or field. Once you've unloaded, groom your puppy as you would at a show. Don't forget to wear a mask to desensitize him to that addition to our "new normal." Stack him on the ground and do your customary gaiting patterns. Bring along a masked family member to play the judge and go over the puppy. Disguise the judge in a hat, sunglasses or fake beard to replicate typical dog show situations. Depending upon where outdoor shows are held in your area, you might look for sod or packed earth to practice on, as well as grass.

If you have a dog show friend who can come to the park with some dogs (keeping an appropriate distance) to distract your puppy, all the better. If they have children, have them come along and make some noise, maybe toss a Frisbee or fly a kite. Dogs are creatures of habit, and exposing them to the ritual of traveling to and competing in a mock dog show will benefit them greatly.

At home, practice working with your puppy on rubber matting (available at places like Lowe's) and concrete so he's accustomed to all those surfaces. Use a long mirror so you can judge his hard and free stacks, and make adjustments as needed.

Doing this dog show practice a few times a week will keep both your heads in the game as we all wait for shows to begin.

Teaching old dogs new tricks

In the usual rush of whelping and raising litters, attending dog events on weekends, juggling job and family during the week, sometimes our retired dogs don't get the one-on-one attention they deserve. They're easy-going, not asking for much, so it's easy to let them snooze on the couch or in a kennel run. With more free time now, why not challenge them with some agility or obedience? You can order weave poles online, or even improvise with stuff around the house. Tunnels can also be ordered. These are activities that can be easily enjoyed in the backyard. They require little investment other than time, and will put a new spring in your senior's step. Great fun and distraction for you, too, during these stressful times!

More time for mentoring

During this unexpected downtime, you can give back to the sport by coaching a promising novice. At shows, mentoring happens on the fly… at your set up or ringside. If you have a protégé whom you see at shows, or perhaps an owner of one of your dogs who is new to the sport, now, you have the luxury of chatting on FaceTime regularly, to answer her questions on grooming or breeding without distractions. It is a great bonding and learning experience.

AKC Virtual Top Dog Challenge

The AKC Virtual Top Dog Challenge is an online conformation event for AKC-recognized breeds and the Miscellaneous class. To enter the Virtual AKC Top Dog Challenge, visit AKC Shop to purchase your $25 entry. You will receive detailed instructions on how to create and submit a video of your entry that you will upload to the virtual event. Entries close June 12.

Online teaching

With club meetings having been curtailed, consider giving an online seminar to your regional breed club. These can be informal and are always educational. If you have a coated breed, discussing structure and movement using a few clipped-down dogs is hugely informative. Do it in your backyard with a family member holding the camera or smartphone while you present.

If you have access to photo albums of important old dogs in your breed, or even old breed magazines, sharing them with newer people provides a wonderful educational opportunity. Lots of dog people these days are posting vintage photos of great judges, breeders, and dogs on Facebook.

Thinking about judging?

If you've toyed with the idea of applying to judge, but keep putting it off because there's never time to pull together all the paperwork, could that be your next quarantine project? All the relevant forms can be downloaded from the AKC website, but you'll need to go through your records for dates and names of litters bred and champions finished over the years. If you're ready to take the plunge but kept procrastinating, put this downtime to good use.

Staying connected

While we're all in pause mode, there are lots of valuable ways you can work with your own dogs and advance your conformation community. Let's stay positive and use our energy in the most productive way possible.

Brags, etc.

Jeffrey Ball's Audrey wants to go to work with him and his wife Betsy. There's a Great Dane under there somewhere!!

Rita Marchese's Cardigan Welsh Corgi, Lucy, just chillin'.

Gustav of Wildhorn, CD, BN, RE, CGC-A
1/27/2006 - 4/14/2020

Condolences to Amy Starost for the loss of her Entle, Gustav. He enjoyed camping, many years of dog training and competing in AKC sports, vacation in the Adirondacks and was instrumental in getting the Entlebucher Mountain Dog accepted by the AKC. He was featured on TV twice and has his photo in a dog breed book. He was ambassador to this breed for many years. Gustav was loved by everyone who knew him. Rest in peace, Googie!

Amy Starost's dogs, l-r Draugr, Belgium Malinois—5 months old and Valkyrie, Dutch Shepherd, 2.5 yrs.

Plague, Protests, Locusts ....

It's the end of the world as we know it... Or not. Or sort of.

By Laura Reeves, Pure Dog Talk Podcast

The last couple years this "celebration" pod was all about getting ready for the summer shows. This year has been hard. A few shows are attempting to go forward, but statistically it's a small number compared to the ones that are cancelled. I know far too many people who are struggling — mentally, emotionally, financially. I think it's important to note that there were NO dog shows held for years during WWII... Our sport survived that and it will survive this. Perhaps it will look different.

Perhaps we'll pick up new tools, new attitudes and new approaches, but our passion for purebred dogs, our friendships, our joy in the anticipation of a new litter, our love of the beauty, predictability and plain companionship of our dogs isn't diminished by our current challenges.

And while the world seems completely unbound and our lives turned upside down at the blink of an eye, here's my hope for us. That we can walk away from what divides us ... that politics or socio-economic status or race, creed or religion will not be allowed to define us. That our common passion, our common decency and our common sense will prevail.

That the diverse, vibrant group that is OUR tribe can rise above, can transcend the rancor and division and roiling fear and bitterness that is sweeping the country and even the world. That we can overcome and improvise, gut it out and get up again, tap the deep well of passion and apply our staggering reserves of knowledge to moving forward.

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.

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