



# Shep-O-Gram

German Shepherd Dog Club of Minneapolis/St Paul

February 2008

## **Shep-O-Gram Monthly**

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It is time for our annual banquet and election. We will be saying farewell to some of our officers, President Verna Kubik, Vice President Kelly Salava, Secretary Conni Sokolouski, Treasurer Pam Magadance, and Board Member Eileen Varhalla. Please thank them for their excellent work over the past year.

In this issue we will conclude the article on the History of Rin Tin Tin and Carol Ouhl's article on Therapy Animals. We also have an article by Heidi Noonan-Day, reprinted with permission from The Canine Chronicle. This may give us some food for thought about generating more entries and income at our shows. She compares dog shows to horse shows and gives some tips she learned from her experience in the horse show world.

We had a Special Membership Meeting on January 18 and Mike Metz presented the data the Budget and Finance Committee has been analyzing in order to make recommendations on our spring specialty shows. It was decided to move the shows to the Roseville Armory which will save the club money and feasibility of having a temperament test on the Friday before the show is being studied. See more detail on the meeting in the Special Membership Meeting minutes located on page 4.

For those of you competing in Rally, remember there have been a few changes in the rules effective January 1, 2008. There are also many new classes, pairs, teams, etc. You can find the rules for Rally and all other AKC events on the AKC web site [www.AKC.org](http://www.AKC.org).

Verna Kubik is giving up her position as Training Director and she has provided us with a job description for that position. You will find it on page 11 of this issue.

Thank you for the favorable feedback I have received on the January issue. A lot of time goes into each issue and it is nice to know it is appreciated. I am hoping to speed up, but currently it takes me about 40 hours to put one of these together. Since I work full time and have three "fur kids" that is hard to do.

I hope to see you at the banquet and the upcoming shows.

Julie Swinland.

(651) 457-5459

Blackforestgsd@MSN.com.

## **SOG Due dates**

March SOG - Feb 21

## Sponsors and ad rates

In order to keep costs down, we are offering sponsorships (you can donate whatever amount you want) and you will be listed as a sponsor in the issue(s) you sponsor. We also will accept advertising.

Business card - 1 time \$10

1/4 page \$35

1/2 half page \$50

full page \$75

This is based on a page size of 8 1/2 X 11. All rates are for black and white print, but may appear in color in the PDF version.

## Upcoming Shows

### February

17 Keomah KC Des Moines

23-24 Minneapolis KC obedience and rally

### March

01 Wisconsin Kennel Club, Inc.

02 Wisconsin Kennel Club, Inc.

08-09 Wright County Obedience & Rally

22 Dubuque Kennel Club

23 Dubuque Kennel Club

29 Clinton Iowa Kennel Club

30 Clinton Iowa Kennel Club

Check events at [www.AKC.org](http://www.AKC.org) for more information

### Animal Eye Consultants of Minnesota - CERF clinics

Dr. Schoster DVM DACVO veterinary ophthalmologist, is pleased to announce the opening of a regular CERF clinic!

The clinic will be from 8 am to 12:00 pm every other Saturday starting February 9, 2008.

To make an appointment simply go to

<http://www.schostercerf.com>

Dr. Schoster is available for doing Canine Eye Registry Foundation examinations by appointment only. He is not available for medical or surgical problems or consultations in Minnesota because he is currently a visiting scholar at the University of Pennsylvania Ryan Hospital for Animals every other week.

The clinics will be at the Highland Vet Clinic, 687 Cleveland Ave So, St Paul, MN 55116

## AMERICAN KENNEL CLUB SEEKS YOUNG FANCIERS FOR 2008 AKC INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

New York, NY - The American Kennel Club® is seeking interns for summer 2008. Students will be selected for paid eight-week internships running June 2 – July 25, 2008 at either the New York headquarters or the Raleigh operations facility.

The AKC's internship program aims to nurture the professional development of college students with a profound interest in purebred dogs. The program offers meaningful assignments that coincide with each student's area of study, offering challenging work that will help to build each participant's resume and complement his or her career goals.

"AKC's summer internship program is a great way to show today's young dog enthusiasts what our company has to offer," said Vicki Rees, AKC's AVP of Human Resources. "It's a win-win situation for everyone involved. We get the chance to prepare qualified, enthusiastic interns for possible future careers at AKC. In return, the students get relevant work experience that complements their educational focus and the opportunity to pursue their interest in purebred dogs."

Applicants should:

Be accepted or enrolled in an accredited four year or two year college

Have completed their first year of college before beginning the internship

Have a competitive grade point average

Have past involvement or profound interest in the fancy

Our application package requires the following:

AKC Application for the Summer Internship Program

Cover Letter - including interest in the sport of purebred dogs and applicant's thoughts on future employment with the AKC

Resume

Copy of applicant's current academic transcript

The application deadline is February 15, 2008.

Applicants should mail the completed package to:

The American Kennel Club

The Intern Program

P.O. Box 37905

Raleigh, NC 27627-7905

Please visit the Employment Section of the AKC web site at [www.akc.jobs](http://www.akc.jobs) for more information on the Intern Program, 2008 projects and instructions on how to apply.

**Remember to either send your ballots in or bring them to the banquet.**

German Shepherd Dog Club of MSP  
Board Meeting  
At the Oakdale Library, 1010 Heron Avenue,  
Oakdale, MN  
January 2, 2007

Meeting came to order at 6:35pm

*In attendance:* Verna Kubik, President; Kelly Salava, Vice-President; Conni Sokolouski, Secretary, Pamela Magadance, Treasurer; Board members- Eileen Varhalla, Julie Swinland.

*Absent:* Liz Oster

*Guests:* Jan Anderson and Nils Anderson

Kelly Salava moved to dispense of the reading of the 12-5-07 Board and 12-14-07, Membership meeting minutes. Julie Swinland Second and passed.

**President's Report:** Covered in meeting

**Vice President's Report:** No report

**Secretary's Report:** The Club received a thank you note from Santa Claus who visited our December pot luck dinner; he had a wonderful time with everyone and especially the dogs.

**Treasures Report:**

- ☐ Reports for **Nov 2007 Profit - \$564.72.** Checking S&C account as of Nov 30, 07 - \$6,605.54, Savings accounts: S&C - \$337.11, Savings account \$5,942.06.
- ☐ **Loss for Dec 2007 - \$202.59** Checking S&C account as of Dec31, 07 - \$6,365.43, Savings accounts: S&C account - \$337.11, Savings account - \$5949.58.
- ☐ A detailed account of all checks written for Nov. and Dec 2007 was handed out.
- ☐ A Match Report was handed out showing a Net Income of \$200.89.

**Standing Committee Reports:**

**Training:** The Winter Training Schedule was discussed. It is also on the web if anyone is interested.

- ☐ **A Special Meeting** will be held on January 18<sup>th</sup>, 2008. The following items will be on the agenda: Budget and Finance Report, Show Details, and the March Match.
- ☐ **Awards Banquet** January 26<sup>th</sup>, 2008 at Gulden's
- ☐ **Obedience Class** ends March 21<sup>st</sup>, 2008
- ☐ **NO TRAINING April 4<sup>th</sup>, 2008**
- ☐ **New Obedience Class** starts April 11<sup>th</sup>, 2008
- ☐ **We have received a letter of resignation from Verna Kubik that as of January 26<sup>th</sup> she will no longer be the Director of Training for the GSDC of MSP. Please see Job Description after minutes.**

**Budget and Finance Report:** No Report

**2008 Show Plans**

An email from Shelia Metz our Show Secretary states that all of the events for our June Specialty Show have been approved.

An anonymous friend has made a donation for the ad in the Review for the Specialty Show.

**March Match: Tentative date for the match is March 28<sup>th</sup>, 2008.**

We are in need of a Match Chair as the paper work needs to be mailed in on time.

**Performance:** Eileen V. reported that she is processing the necessary information to hold a herding match, IF ANYONE IN THE CLUB HAS A HERDING TITLE ON ONE OF THEIR DOGS PLEASE CONTACT EITHER EILEEN V. at [evanhalla@aol.com](mailto:evanhalla@aol.com) OR PAM M. at [agility\\_gage@hotmail.com](mailto:agility_gage@hotmail.com) WITH THIS INFORMATION.

**All Breed Liaison:** No Report

**Website:** No Report

**Programs:** No Report

**Membership:** No Report.

**Breed Club Challenge:** Please send any new titles when you receive them to Pam M. so she can compile the necessary paperwork through out the year and not at the last minute.

**Shep-O-Gram:**

**Programs:** No report

**Old business:**

- ☐ It was proposed that the Standing Rules be updated, now that the By Laws have been updated and approved by the members. All of AD HOC Committees need job descriptions and that they be put in a Policy and Procedure Manual which is reviewed annually.

**New business:**

**Award Banquet:** If you have any dogs that received titles and this includes Temperament Checks and Herding Tests (HT and PT) please contact Pam M or Mada P. immediately with this information. To clarify, Herding Instinct Tests (given at GSDCA National only) qualify for honorable mention. AKC Herding Tested (HT) and Pre-Trial (PT) titles count for plaques or bars.

**A big thanks to all who have volunteered for committees and various duties within our club- without you volunteering our club would not exist.**

Meeting adjourned at 7:25pm.

# German Shepherd Dog Club of MSP

## Special Membership Meeting

At the Animal Inn Training Center, Lake Elmo,  
MN

January 18, 2008

Special Meeting on Budget and Finance findings  
meeting came to order at 8:31pm

*In attendance: Verna Kubik, President; Conni  
Sokolouski, Secretary; Board members: Julie Swinland  
and Eileen Varhalla*

*Absent: Kelly Salava, Vice-President; Pamela  
Magadance Treasurer; Board member: Liz Oster*  
There were 19 voting members present.

### BUDGET & FINANCE REPORT

Mike Metz along with Roger Salava, Pam  
Magadance, Mada Parnell?, and Kelly Knight  
have reviewed stats from the last three years on  
Specialty show weekend profit and loss and have  
projected that the club could make a profit with  
comparable entries if the following conditions are  
met:

- Reducing the Trophy Budget to be the same as  
the amount of donations we receive from club  
members (Recommendation \$2000).
- Food Budget: Shows profitable if sufficient  
food and/or money is donated from club  
members to cover the ALL expenses of  
having food at the show available and pricing  
accordingly.
- A new site with lower costs would greatly  
benefit the costs involved with holding a  
Specialty Show and after researching sites  
it was found that the Roseville Armory could  
be rented at a cost that was less then the  
Washington Fair Grounds.
- Recommended that the club consider holding  
a Temperament test the day before the  
Specialty Show to increase profit for the show.
- The Budget and Finance Committee also has  
some plans to increase interest and draw  
more out-of-area entries to be announced April  
1<sup>st</sup>.

Sheila Williams-Metz motioned to hold the 2008  
Specialty Show at the Roseville Amory Mada  
Parnell seconded, and passed.

Eileen Varhalla motioned to have indoor obedience at  
the Roseville Armory if a suitable area exists and to  
obtain mats for rental at \$250.00 or less. Jinny Bailey  
seconded and passed.

Mada Parnell motioned that a budget limit of \$500.00  
be established for rental of the Roseville Armory  
show site not including mats for obedience and that  
a signed contract for site be obtained at or under the  
above stated budget. Sheila Williams-Metz seconded  
and passed.

### SPECIALTY SHOW UPDATE:

- Sheila Williams-Metz our Show Secretary reported  
that all things are moving along as planned and  
the show has been approved by the AKC.
- Sheila will be asking people for help on some  
items related to the show.
- The ad for the Review is being designed and an  
Anonymous Donor has donated the cost the Ad to  
the Club, Thank you!

All Breed Liaison Status: NO REPORT

### New Business:

Training Director:

- The club will be in need of a New Training Director  
as Verna Kubik has resigned from the position as  
of January 26<sup>th</sup>, 2008.
- Verna suggested that the duties be divided if  
possible with club members taking turns helping  
with desk check-in and opening and closing the  
building for training.

Checking Account – Mada Parnell motioned to open  
a new checking and savings account for GSDCMSP  
at Associated Bank. Ginny Altman seconded and  
passed.

Mada Parnell motioned to have Verna Kubik write  
a letter to authorize a transfer of \$1000.00 from the  
GSDCMSP Money Market account at Associated  
Bank to open a new checking account and to have  
the bank release signer cards to Mada Parnell for the  
current Money Market. Dave Bissonette seconded  
and passed.

NO TRAINING ON FEBRUARY 8<sup>TH</sup>, 2008—the Animal  
Inn is booked for another event.

February MEMBERSHIIP MEETING MOVED TO  
FEBRUARY 15<sup>TH</sup>, 2008 at the ANIMAL INN

Meeting adjourned at 9:56p.m.



# Rin Tin Tin A Living Legacy from 1919 to 2007

## Part 2

'Rinty' as he was called at Bodyguard Kennels would begin a preservation of the legacy as soon it was discovered that Duncan suffered from bone cancer.

Duncan died on September 20, 1960, but his bloodline and the legacy of **Rin Tin Tin** were in good hands with Ms. Propps and Bodyguard Kennels.

Ms. Propps through her frequent communications with Duncan knew exactly what he wanted in the historic progeny. He told her once his primary concerns were intelligence with the secondary being a sound working structure.

He preferred the lighter colors of the silver grey as they were more easily seen on the then black and white television. He also maintained several white coated dogs in his breeding program and did not discriminate against any dog merely because of coat color. He judged them, as did Ms. Propps, on ability, not hair color.

Ms. Propps continued to breed and show the **Rin Tin Tin** dogs with help from her granddaughter, Daphne Hereford. Miss Hereford was raised by her grandmother



from the time she was five years old, when she came to live with her grandmother in 1955, and quickly learned not only the qualities of the lineage, but also the aspects of participating at dog shows.



Most children of the late 1950s and early 1960s participated in school sports, but Miss Hereford spent her weekends at dog class, in the kennel or at dog shows learning and being groomed to take the helm of the famed lineage.

For about a decade beginning in the 1970s, both Ms. Propps and her granddaughter had security companies in Houston that provided security guard canine handlers accompanied by a **Rin Tin Tin** dog. The two companies maintained by the women were the only companies licensed by the State of Texas at that time that had never had a complaint filed against them.

Ms. Propps passed away December 17, 1988 and the legacy of **Rin Tin Tin** was passed to Miss Hereford who continues to maintain it today. The dogs produced today are identical in structure, color and intelligence to **Rin Tin Tin II** and **Rin Tin Tin IV**.

The breeding program of **Rin Tin Tin** is considered a "closed program" and all progeny are placed on a spay/neuter non-breeding agreement.

"This strict criteria was initiated by my grandmother to not only protect the integrity of the lineage, but the **Rin Tin Tin** name," said Miss Hereford.

"If you are at the helm of something as important as the **Rin Tin Tin** legacy, then you are charged with a responsibility to ensure that it



remains the same as it was intended by its founders. To change **Rin Tin Tin** in any way would be a disservice not only to my grandmother, but to Lee Duncan as well. I have dedicated my life to the maintenance of this lineage and am proud to say, the dog you see today representing **Rin Tin Tin** is the same dog Duncan put before the public in the 1950s," she added.



The **Rin Tin Tin**-breeding program carefully utilizes line breeding to insure integrity in the lineage. Out-crosses are necessary in any breeding program, but the influx of new blood to the **Rin Tin Tin** line is done only after meticulous research and consideration. Progeny from the out crosses are then re-entered into the **Rin Tin Tin** bloodline.

"Seems with all things **Rin Tin Tin**, fate dictates events that will ensure the legacy is protected. And fate dictated that I begin my tenure with the lineage at the young age of five," Miss Hereford said.

"Now, some 50 years later I have served the lineage longer than either Duncan or my Grandmother. I have an extensive working knowledge of the bloodline that allows us to continue to produce dogs both Lee Duncan and my grandmother would be proud of as they are a true tribute to their namesake and identical in every way to them," she continued. She or her Grandmother owned or bred all of the "Official" **Rin Tin Tin** dogs; **Rin Tin Tin V – Rin Tin Tin X**.



In recent years, Tommy and Jan Hall, of Crockett, Texas, have joined Miss Hereford as co-breeders of the **Rin Tin Tin** line dogs.



**Rin Tin Tin VIII** passed away June 14, 2007 only days before his successor, **Rin Tin Tin X** entered the world. **Rin Tin Tins Lord Jireh**, the dog designated as **Rin Tin Tin X**, was bred by Miss Hereford and Mrs. Hall and was born on June 23, 2007. He will be follow in the footsteps of his famed ancestors in all aspects of **Rin Tin Tin**.

Known for their working ability, **Rin Tin Tin** line dogs continue to serve the nation in several arenas; A Grandson of **Rin Tin**

**Tins Stonewall J** served his country as a Search and Rescue Dog following the tragedy on September 11.



Several **Rin Tin Tin** progeny serve special needs children nationwide through **A Rinty for Kids Foundation, incorporated (ARFkids)** working as Service Dogs and Pet Assisted Therapy Dogs.



**ARFkids** is a Texas-based 501(c)3 IRS Non-Profit organization that places Pet Assisted Therapy Dogs with recipient children and assists the family in completing the training necessary to serve the child.

As part of the **ARFkids** Program, volunteers assist the recipient family with training through scholarships. In addition, scholarships are offered to encourage the child to participate in their local German Shepherd Dog Club affiliated with the German Shepherd Dog Club of America. The German Shepherd Dog Clubs



## Rin Tin Tin ~ Rin Tin Tin X

1918 ~ 2007



Rin Tin Tin



Rin Tin Tin II



Rin Tin Tin III



Rin Tin  
Tin IV  
Rin Tin Tin V  
Rin Tin Tin VI



Rin Tin Tin  
Rin Tin Tin IX



VII



Rin Tin Tin VIII

### *And the Legacy Continues with Rin Tin Tin X*

*Pictured at 4 ½ months Rin Tin Tins Lord Jireh*



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## Therapy Animals A-Z Part 2 By Carol Ouhl

Why would anyone want to do this activity? The reasons are as many and varied as is our world today. Some people just want an activity they can do with their dogs that doesn't involve competition or lots of energy or time. Some people want to volunteer but don't want to leave their pets home alone. Others have family commitments already involving much time spent with the health care systems and want to be able to spend time with their pets as well. Those who have seen a therapy animal miracle first-hand, have their hearts warmed and their minds exhilarated. Miracles are everywhere depending upon how you define them. I personally have seen a tiny, frail toddler just out of surgery who is screaming and crying with fear and pain, stop crying in seconds when a little, fluffy dog starts doing tricks. And the relief and gratitude on the parents' faces is just as heart-warming. I have seen agitated Alzheimer's patients settle down and actually smile or talk. I have seen dementia patients remember the dog's name and the cues the dog knows when they don't remember their children's names. I have been asked by long-time clients to bring my dog for a final good-bye before they pass on. I have seen both withdrawn and very agitated children with autism focus and reach out to pet an animal. I have seen hospital patients ask for pain medication, begin visiting with an animal and when the medication arrives, decide they no longer need it. Burn patients smile through the excruciating pain when animals are present. Moods brighten and hope springs up when visiting teams enter a cardiac or intensive care unit. Children at risk share their fears with the dog, abused children admit their abuse and trauma, hospice patients cry freely & share their fears of dying, lonely people let down their security wall of silence and interact with the world, and hardened criminals learn empathy and gentleness. The positive responses are so frequent and varied, one cannot help but become addicted to this activity.

How do you begin? It's really quite easy. If you have a dog that likes people, takes new situations in stride and does what you ask it to do, you have a great start. You don't need to be registered with a national therapy animal organization but I strongly recommend it. We GSD people own one of those breeds perceived as being dangerous. When you are registered with a national therapy animal organization, you gain credibility and are covered by volunteer liability insurance that includes covering your dog's actions. Review the websites I've listed below, choose the organization you like best, contact a local evaluator for that organization and make an appointment to be evaluated. There are also many classes in our area to teach you and your dog therapy dog maneuvers and handling skills if you want the extra education before you are evaluated. There are many experienced teams willing to mentor new teams. There are books and training manuals galore on how to have successful visits.

Are GSDs suited to this work. Absolutely! These intuitive, intelligent creatures of ours make wonderful visiting dogs. They are responsive to their handler's requests; they easily learn to respond to patients and children's requests, they have a grace and grandeur about them that fills the room when they enter. They have the ability with their calm, confident nature to win over the most distrusting or fearful patient. And all admire their beauty. They also have the huge opportunity to be wonderful ambassadors of our breed. I think it's extremely important for the public to see our gentle, loving Shepherds acting nothing like a vicious attack or police dog. I have personally been asked by parents "not to visit their sick child because - while the dog is lovely - it is, after all, a German Shepherd". I always graciously comply. And always I have had those parents come back to me in 20 minutes commenting on how quiet and gentle they've observed my dog to be and asking me to bring the dog to their children. Our GSDs do need to be far better trained than the average visiting Golden Retriever or Poodle as we still must overcome the breed discrimination that will always exist.

Do all GSDs like this work? Noooooo. Some are too high energy and find it boring. Some are more aloof and don't like hordes of people handling them. Some are too sensitive to tolerate the sights, sounds and smells of difficult visiting environments. And some are just too intelligent and spend more time figuring out ways to embarrass their handler in public than visit with the people.

How do I choose a National Organization? The charts below give you information on the websites for these organizations as well as similarities and differences between the organizations.



Also see: [www.MN Therapy Animals](http://www.MNTherapyAnimals.com) A local informational web site dedicated to Minnesotans who share a similar interest in enhancing the animal-human bond

## DIFFERENCES IN NATIONAL VOLUNTEER REGISTRIES

Issue	Delta Society	Therapy Dogs, Int'l	Therapy Dogs, Inc.
Training Before Evaluation	Workshop or Home Study Course	None	None
Training after Registration	On going website, Membership rules Monthly newsletter, National contacts w peers, National Headquarters resources	Video provided Membership rules Newsletter bi-monthly Nat'l Headquarters resources	Video of do's & don'ts Membership rules Newsletter Local group Nat'l Headquarters resources
Evaluation	20 exercises - 10 obedience; 10 hands-on situations Animal & Handler each scored Results good for 2 years Multiple species allowed	14 exercises - 10 obedience; 4 hands-on situations Results good for life Team scored as one Dogs only	3 actual visits observed Results good for life Team scored as one Dogs only
Renewal	Membership renew every 2 years; Renewal Evaluation every 2 years Various Dues Levels	Membership renew yearly Evaluated once for life Various Dues Levels	Membership renew yearly Evaluated once for life
IDs Provided	ID card with team's picture Tag for collar (White circle)	ID card with animal's picture Tag for collar (red heart)	ID card with human's picture Tag for collar - red circle
Insurance	\$2 million free Unless professional work	\$2 million free Unless professional work	\$2 million free Unless professional work
Mentoring	Yes, if local group	Yes, if local group	Yes, local group required
Juniors OK?	Yes, visit with a guardian	Yes, visit with a guardian	Yes, visit with a guardian

## National Organizations that Evaluate and Register Therapy Animals

<b>Delta Society</b> (Many species)	875 124 <sup>th</sup> Ave., NE , Suite 101, Bellevue, WA 98005
Phone: 425-226-7357	Fax: 425-235-1076
Email: <a href="mailto:info@deltasociety.org">info@deltasociety.org</a>	Web: <a href="http://www.deltasociety.org">www.deltasociety.org</a>
Local Evaluators: Barb Gaffner, Minneapolis, 612-721-4135 Carol Ouhl, Cottage Grove - 651-769-2578 Polly Ames, Burnsville Tanya Welsch, St. Paul J.P. Martin, Royalton\St.Cloud - 320-584-5817	Sean Hewitt, Inver Grove Hgts, - Dawn Torine-Micko, Mpls- 612-988-9359 Bobbi Cramer, St. Paul Carole Torgeson, Park Rapids, ND
<b>Therapy Dogs, Inc., (TD Inc.)</b> (Dogs only),	P O Box 5868 Cheyenne, WY 82003
Phone: 877-843-7364 (toll free), 307-432-0272,	Fax: 307-638-2079
E-Mail: <a href="mailto:therapydogsinc@qwest.net">therapydogsinc@qwest.net</a>	Web: <a href="http://www.therapydogs.com">www.therapydogs.com</a>
Local Evaluators: Diane Moyer, 612-553-1501 Ellen Whiteknight, 763-383-1559	Theresa Stead - 651-487-1076
<b>Therapy Dogs International, Inc. (TDI, Inc.)</b> (Dogs only)	88 Bartley Rd., Flanders, NJ 07836
Phone: 973-252-9800	Fax 973-252-7171
E-Mail: <a href="mailto:tdi@gti.net">tdi@gti.net</a>	Web: <a href="http://www.tdi-dog.org">www.tdi-dog.org</a>
Local Evaluators: Patricia Kinch, St. Michael, 612-497-5809 Kristi Neimann, St. Francis Bob Levy, St. Paul	Pam Longville, Duluth Marsha Fritzmeier, Rochester Tim Peterson, Big Lake

## Attract Your New Members

### By Means of an Old Model... GRAB THE HORSE GIRLS!

by Heidi Noonan-Day With a great deal of interest, I read the article in the Chronicle for November bemoaning the lack of volunteers, registrations, and the overall "aging" of the dog fancy. I am new, within the last two years, to dogs, so I can offer a unique perspective.

First, I think AKC could benefit GREATLY by following the model of the Arabian Horse Association. As a broken down horse girl, I was anxious to keep going, and since I already owned Pembroke Welsh Corgis, the answer seemed to be entering the world of dog showing. The differences could not be bigger between Arabian horses and dogs! The dog fancy is not "amateur friendly." I learned quickly that unless a handler was involved, I was not going to get anywhere. A radical, huge overhaul following an entirely different model is necessary to preserve and expand the sport of dog showing. My proposals are as follows:

1. Offer MANY, MANY more classes there is no harm in doing so, only greater entry fees collectible by AKC. Add "Amateur Owner to Handle" classes, "Limit Dog" (Dogs with less than six wins) classes, and "Maiden Dog," classes, (Dogs with no wins). Offer classes for spayed or neutered dogs. In horses, can show geldings, and again, there is no harm involved. We all know geldings can't be bred, but there's no reason we can't enjoy showing them in conformation classes. Breeders would then have a marketing tool for their pet-quality dogs, without the fear of passing on undesirable characteristics. Offering AOTH classes will also increase the income of professional handlers. Amateurs would flock to handlers for lessons, and help in preparation for showing. The over-all effect of this addition would eventually be that the professional handler's amateurs would win more, but that is a win-win situation. You could also offer classes for "Amateur Trained, Amateur Handled" classes.

2. Have competitions at the regional level, with qualifying classes at the local level. Hold regional championships.

People would LOVE to be able to compete for a "regional championship" title. We even buy jackets, shirts, hats, blankets with "Region Ten Champion" emblazoned on it. These championships could be held at an all-breed show, but be breed specific.

3. Offer much better prizes. You can charge more for the classes, but offer rosettes for class wins and placings, and huge rosettes for championships. Good trophies also encourage participation. People love to display trophies and will keep them for generations.

4. For the breeders allow futurity classes with prize money. People who breed would welcome the opportunity to win money. Again, with a futurity program, allow for the showing of spayed or neutered dogs. This would eliminate the problem of people keeping dogs intact which may pass on undesirable characteristics.

5. Encourage the general showing of dogs. Encourage state by state breed clubs, affiliated with AKC. Make a year-end high point available, to encourage dog showing within the states. Have an AOTH National Show, with spayed or neutered championships. The AKC would gain monetarily, the dog fancy would attract people by the thousands, and the volunteer problem would be solved.

I truly believe that if the dog show world would be open to ideas like these, there would be a very open and welcoming attitude in dog owners. Let people enjoy showing dogs the same way they enjoy showing horses. Accessibility is the key. Radical change? You bet. Needed change? Only if you want to attract people by the truck-loads. I would volunteer to implement these programs in my state and locality in a heartbeat. I think there are hundreds of people in other areas waiting to jump in as well.

**Article reprinted from The Canine Chronicle with their permission**

## SOGGY by Julie Swinland



## Job Description-GSDC MSP Director of Training

### I. Keeper of the Keys

-The Animal Inn wants no more than two sets of keys to the training center circulating. Currently, **the Director of Training** has one set for the door, the GSDC cabinet, and the trailer. The first class trainer, currently Eileen Varhalla, has the other set.

**The Director** has the responsibility of opening the Center at ~6:30 p.m. on every training night, and closing after the last person leaves.

### II. Set-up and Clean-up

-**The Director** of training typically opens the cabinet, starts the coffee, sets up the check-in table, and checks to make sure everything is cleaned up and put back where it started from after training. This includes putting the blue chairs in the kitchen/meeting area, gray chairs in the training area, and tidying up any coffee cups, coke cans, or other debris left behind.

The Director also monitors the supplies of coffee, cups, condiments, etc. and replenishes supplies as needed.

### III. Organization and record keeping

- a. **The Director is responsible for scheduling trainers for all classes and covering the check-in table.** **The Director** works with the trainers and the board to schedule beginning and ongoing classes and co-ordinate match dates, adjusting times and ring assignments to meet needs.
- b. **Payment policies**-Our current policy is to give one free lesson for each hour worked at the check-in table, and for each class taught by a volunteer. Currently, our conformation trainers volunteer. Our obedience, rally, and PPT trainers are paid per the Standing Rules (Our current rally trainer, Virginia Bailey, volunteers her time). **The Director** is responsible for getting volunteers to cover the table. If nobody volunteers, **the Director** is responsible for doing it.
- c. **The Director is responsible for maintaining the Calendar of activities for Friday nights, and letting the board and membership know when conflicts that affect training occur.** To facilitate this, he should keep a 6-month rolling calendar of events, notify the board of conflicts 1-2 months in advance, and provide updates to the board and the webmaster as needed.

- d. **The Director is responsible for keeping the rosters and attendance records for all classes, and for collecting and transferring training monies to the treasurer.** Forms for rosters for PPT, rally, and obedience classes are provided to the trainers on a quarterly basis so they can contact their students if cancellations occur. Forms have also been created to summarize attendance and income for each class at the end of the session, and to keep track of free lessons earned and used. **The Director** keeps a disk with the templates for all the forms, and prints more as needed. A file of application forms and attendance records from previous classes is maintained for two years past lest proof of vaccination be required.
- e. **Monies**-Training fees and policies are determined by the membership, and are recorded in the Standing Rules of the club. Beginning obedience classes are offered only in blocks of ten lessons, PPT lessons with an initial block of 5 lessons, and additional individual lessons or blocks offered as needed. We have recently initiated blocks of 10 or 20 conformation lessons at discounted fees. **The Director** is responsible for maintaining records of attendance in each class and block lesson status, for which forms are provided at the check-in table. \$30 in cash is kept in a cash box for making change, and a ledger sheet is kept at the check-in table to account for all monies received. Donations of \$.25/cup for coffee are collected, and either used to purchase supplies or turned in with training receipts. If membership application fees are received at training, they are recorded in the ledger and turned in to the Treasurer with training monies.

### To Whom it may concern:

For personal reasons, I am resigning as Director of Training for the GSDC of MSP, effective January 26, 2008.

Best of Luck to my successor!

**Verna Kubik**



## **Training Friday nights at the Animal Inn Lake Elmo**

Check the web site for exceptions  
[www.gsdcmsp.org](http://www.gsdcmsp.org)

7:00 Conformation

Intermediate Obedience

7:45 Beginning obedience

Rally - all levels

## **February Membership meeting moved to February 15**

## **GSDC/ MSP Herding Trial 2008**

Eileen Varhalla is continuing her work on organizing the Sanctioned Plan A Herding Trial in the spring 2008.

Let Eileen know if you have gotten any herding titles with your dogs. She needs to show the AKC that our members have been active in herding.

If you would like to participate, help, plan, or work at this event please contact Eileen Varhalla. This will offer an opportunity to get a feel for herding if you haven't tried it yet. You can see what it is all about.

Contact: [evanhalla@aol.com](mailto:evanhalla@aol.com) 651-462-12220



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