



Shep-O-Gram

German Shepherd Dog Club of Minneapolis/St Paul

September 2009

Shep-O-Gram

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September already! The State Fair Demos are September 6. Remember to connect with your leader or Verna and get instructions and tickets. Do you have a club T-shirt? You might want to see if you can get one from Bo Vujovich. 651-450-0176. She is very busy the next few weeks and you will probably have to pick it up from her. Bo gives a reduced price to members for club T-shirts of \$12. We generally try to all dress in the same colors, so contact Verna to find out what those are this year.

If you receive the online messages that Dave Bissionette sends out, you probably saw the message From Mike Metz that long time member Barbara Riciotti is in a facility being treated for Alzheimer's Disease and Cancer. Mike suggested that we have an article highlighting interesting stories about Barb. Sheila Metz is collecting those and creating an article which will, hopefully, be ready for the next issue. If you have something to add, or a photo of Barb please send them to Sheila, sheilawm@comcast.net.

I thought it would be interesting to see if service dogs are ever trained to work with Alzheimer's patients and found that there is one facility, Called Okada, run by Patti Putnam in Virginia, that trains dogs for that purpose. I contacted Patti and put an article together on that in this issue.

We have our Herding Fun Day coming up. I think it is nearly filled. Contact information is on the last page. Our club is also holding our first AKC herding trial In October and there will be a clean up day at Polly Simpson's Farm to help prepare for that on September 19. We need volunteers. See more information, directions and maps on page 5.

We are planning another geocaching event on Oct. 24. Details will be announced in the next Shep-O-Gram.

It is time to start thinking about running for office for 2010. The club will need some candidates for various offices including President, Treasurer, and board. Talk to the nominating committee or a board member about running for office.

Julie Swinland.

(651) 457-5459

Blackforestgsd@msn.com

SOG Due Date

Oct issue - Sept 21

September 11 Membership Meeting 8:30 PM Animal Inn

JOIN THE GSDC OF AMERICA TODAY!

German Shepherd Dog Club of America Membership Application

Requirements: Minimum age of 18 years. Must be in good standing with AKC. Membership includes subscription to *The German Shepherd Dog Review*.

Membership Type: (circle one)

Single \$66.00 Family* \$100.00

*Dues are not tax deductible * Family is defined as same household or significant other.*

Make checks payable to GSDCA (Outside the US add \$24.00)

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____

Zip _____

Phone (s) _____

Fax _____

Email _____

I (we) hereby make application to the above Club and agree, if accepted for membership, to abide by its Bylaws and the Bylaws of the AKC. Upon application I will be eligible for all privileges except the right to vote. Thirty days after my name is published in the Review, provided no objections have been filed I will be granted the right to vote

Signed _____

Signed _____

Mail to: Gail Hardcastle, 49 Lakeview Road, White Salmon, WA 98672

hardcastle@starband.net

GSDC MSP Class Schedule Obedience Classes

Class	Time
Alt weeks--Team & Run Thrus	6:00-6:45
Intermediate & Advanced Novice	6:45-7:45
Beginning Obedience	7:45-8:30
Beginning Open Obedience	7:30-8:30
Advanced Obedience Run-Thrus	8:30-Done

PPT & Rally Classes

S.T.A.R. Puppy	6:45-7:30
Rally-All Levels	8:30-Close

Conformation Classes

Class	Time
Socialization Only	7:00-8:30
Litter Socialization	6:30-7:00
Novice Conformation Handlers Class	7:00-7:30
Advanced Conformation	7:30-8:30
Open Ring Conformation	8:30-Close

NOTE: During the summer There will be a beginning Open class replacing the Competition Obedience class 7:30-8:30.

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

There are many shows in MN, IA, WI and the Dakotas. See Events at www.akc.org for a complete listing or look at the calendar on the www.gsdcm.org web site.

Alzheimer's Guide Dogs At Okada Assistance Dogs

Editor's Introduction: When I heard about Barbara Riciotti's illness and Mike's plan to have an article about her life with German Shepherds, I wondered if there was such a thing as an assistance dog trained to work with an Alzheimer's patient. I found an article about some in Israel and then I hit on Okada Dogs in the US. Okada, Founded by Patti Putnam in 1986, also trains Hearing Guide Dogs, and Seizure Detection Dogs. Here is Patti's story:



We began in 1986 training hearing dogs because at that time there were only a few hearing dog programs and those were located on the East and West coasts of the USA, we were in the Midwest. Our non-profit 501 (c) (3) started in the State of WI. in 1986, later moving to Florida and finally to Virginia. Realizing that it was going to be a bigger challenge to secure funds than if we had specialized in service dogs, our board still felt that we needed to "fill the gap". There was a definite niche to fill so Okada stepped up and trained hearing dogs. The challenge with hearing dog was the fact that no one can see a set of broken ears and thus people cannot see the need, nor will they donate money. A person in a wheelchair with a dog beside that chair, or a blind person with their dog, sells itself. It was an uphill struggle but we survived mainly due to our volunteers. Then we began to receive requests from caregivers who were trying to keep loved ones diagnosed with Alzheimer's at home versus institutionalization. Dementia was just coming out of the closet at that time in the early 1990s. We surveyed other Assistance dog programs but none were doing anything with this disease. Rather than letting people fall through the cracks Okada felt that the least we should do is try to take our hearing dog training techniques and see if we could develop a dog to help with "wandering" so that the caregivers could get a good night's sleep. That would be the dog's job. However, we knew nothing about the disease.

It was at this time that a woman applied needing an Alzheimer's dog who was a professional working with the disease and she was the sole caregiver of her Mother who was in the third stages of dementia. She



**CAREGIVER NACNY WITH
HER DOG TOOTSIE**

became our missing link. She was more than qualified, she resided an hour away from us, and she was happy to work with us to produce the prototype. Her name is Nancy and you can see Nancy and her Tootsie in two of our web site photographs. Okada and Nancy partnered together and Alzheimer's dog was born. A wonderful side story during this time is Tootsie's story. One of our foster homes, who were fostering a hearing dog for us, found a little stray female mutt Australian shepherd in the ditch by their home. She was in pretty bad shape; bloody, emaciated, and had been on her own for some time. After they rescued her and got her back on her feet they wondered if she might make a good hearing dog. We tested her and found that she had all of the qualities we needed. Simultaneously, we had accepted Nancy as a client. Because Nancy's Mom was entering the third stage of the disease we were trying to cut the time down in training the Alzheimer's prototype dog. It seemed only logical to use Tootsie because not only had her foster parents gotten her back physically and mentally but they had her housebroken and

were teaching her basic obedience, they had shaved 4 months off of Tootsie's formal training. Tootsie was thriving and she became our designated prototype Alzheimer's dog. She was trained in record time, was placed and excelled in her job. Not only did she work up until the day her patient died, but after she and Nancy had grieved together they went on to become exemplary ambassadors, educating the public to what Alzheimer's dogs are all about. After several years without her patient, one night Nancy brought an older woman into the home to convalesce from surgery. Tootsie readily accepted the women. All of us were absolutely amazed when after years of retirement, Tootsie leapt into action when the total stranger got up that first night and fell. Tootsie never hesitated in alerting Nancy to the fact that there was an emergency and she needed to follow her to the older women's location. Because of Tootsie there was a happy ending.

Continued on next page

We are fortunate that recipients of Okada dogs share with us as the working teams forge ahead into their lives. On most occasions the Okada dogs have gone on to lead exemplary lives going way beyond our expectations. With each dog we have learned that we are only touching the tip of the iceberg and that there is so much more than we realized was possible. Especially with the Alzheimer's dog. After all it is the first time that anyone has asked a dog to work for more than one human partner. Seeing eye dogs have one human partner, service dogs have one human partner, but Alzheimer's dog has two; the chief caregiver and their patient, it's a working triad. They must also be self-starting dogs like Okada's hearing and seizure dogs; they have to know when to go to work and then do it without a human command. And over all of this the Alzheimer's dog has to work in a very stressful environment caused by the ongoing dementia. Even with all of these factors to contend with, Alzheimer's dogs work without complaint, they mold their own needs to fit the needs of their patients. As their patients slip further and further into the disease each of the Alzheimer's dogs has conformed to the needs of their patients. When patients can no longer verbally communicate with others they can reach out to their dogs. Caregivers find this very comforting.



LESTER & KRYSTIL

Editor's note: I asked Patti if they use any German Shepherd Dogs in their program and she responded:

Yes, definitely. We have found that this breed is amazing. We've had several breeders donate to us. They contact us and we test the dog(s) to see if any have the ingredients needed. If we find one that we think can make it we would very definitely give consideration to accepting a German Shepherd. It's not so much the conformation as it is the other things we need in the dog. We need a willingness to please, a dog that can accept and cope with unusual things, a people dog, one that is in tune and curious to sounds, that has retrieving abilities and a dog that does not follow its nose for a living but rather its ears. Hope that makes sense. We also like a dog that has a fairly soft coat, a coat that does not require hours of grooming but a coat that an Alzheimer's patient might be able to brush, and a dog that is not totally black because often times Alzheimer's patients do not see very well specially at night and can fall over the dog. The biggest asset the dog has is its "heart".

Here is some information from the Okada Dogs web site. www.okadadogs.com

An Alzheimer's Guide Dog works with the caregiver(s) of the Alzheimer's patient to help control wandering within the home environment. This eliminates the need for round-the-clock "awake" caregiver services. Okada has accepted the challenges of working with specially trained dogs to help families cope with wandering control of patients that remain within the home setting. We have successfully developed a dog to work with the caregiver(s) to alert them to a wandering situation. Further, the dogs give therapeutic benefits to the patient, caregiver(s), and family members. They act as a catalyst for socialization and reminiscing, are used to redirect and distract, improve physical functioning, have a calming effect, are wonderful playmates, and give dignified patient supervision. These are a few of the benefits of an Alzheimer's guide dog.



TOOTSIE COMFORTS HER PATIENT, ESTHER

The dog is trained to recognize when the Alzheimer's patient begins to wander, to find the caregiver, and to lead the caregiver to the patient. This is the dog's work task (job). For example, at night the dog will hear the patient in bed moving about but will not go to work until the patient actually gets up. Then the dog will go to the caregiver, awaken the caregiver if necessary, and lead the caregiver to the patient.

No one gives the Alzheimer's guide dog a verbal command to start working. We consider them to be self-starters. This dog is on duty 24 hours per day alerting the caregiver(s) to the wandering of their patient.

Our experience indicates that the dog becomes bonded to both the patient and the chief caregiver. To say that this bonding lends much comfort to both is a great understatement. We've observed improved mental, emotional, and physical changes in both patient and caregiver(s). Alzheimer's guide dogs are trained in a particular work task, wandering control. Therefore, after successful completion of tests, administered by Okada, the caregiver and Alzheimer's dog can be certified. Once certified the dog has legal access to public places when accompanied by the designated caregiver(s).

Note that the patient is not the designated dog handler.

For more information on how to qualify for an Alzheimer's Guide dog or another type of assistance dog or to donate to Okada Dogs, contact Patti Putnam at info@okadadogs.com.



IRENE, SUE & RUDE

Clean up day at Polly Simpson's Farm - September 19

We need volunteers to go to Polly Simpson's to help prepare for our first herding trial. Unfortunately, the only day available is the same as our Herding Fun Day, so we need volunteers outside of the people signed up for the fun day.

Note from Polly:

Show up about 9:00 a.m. to help. I will try and have everything mapped out. Bring gloves, pliers, little garden trowel. We will be putting up tarps, filling gopher holes, pounding in poles to set up for duck obstacles, putting out garbage cans, etc. No food available bring your own sandwich. I will have diet coke, and water available. Thank You - Polly

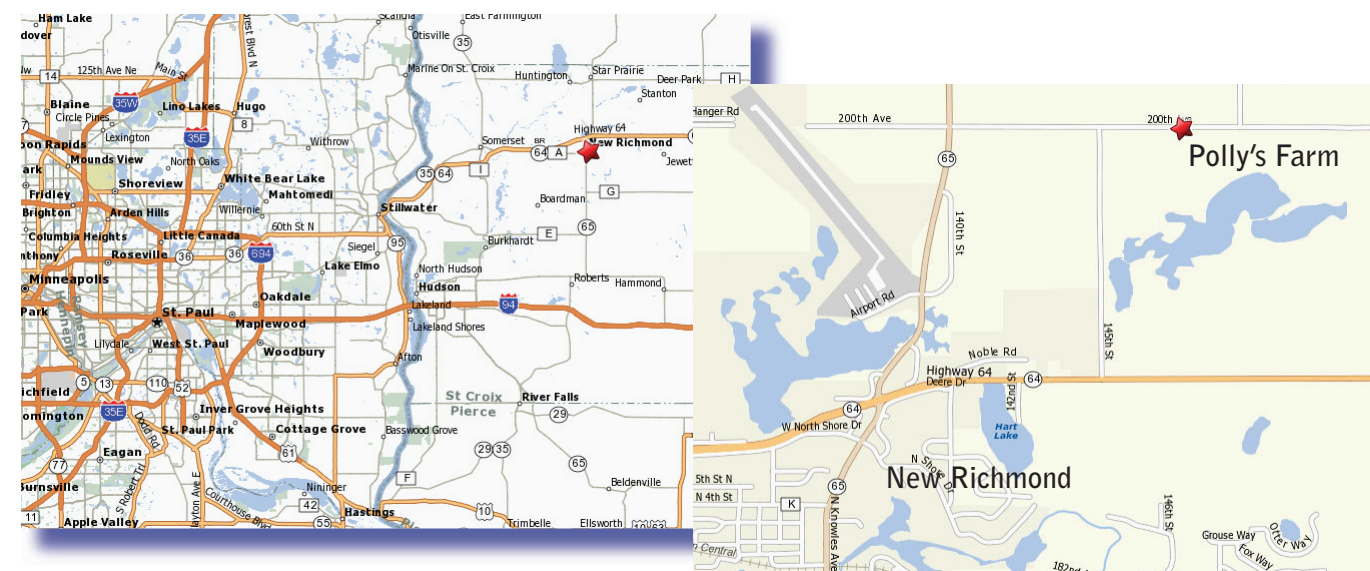
Members of the Rotti club will be there too. Polly's farm is in New Richmond WI, a fun drive. address 1479 200th Ave, New Richmond, WI 54017-7212.

Directions to Polly's:

From Stillwater, MN: Take MN-36E crossing into WI. In WI, 36 becomes WI-64E. Follow 64E and when it joins 65E, turn left on 65 to 200th Ave. Turn right and go .8 miles.

FROM WI I-94: Coming from MN, take I-94 east to 65. North to 200th Ave. Turn right and go .8 miles.

FROM WI I-94: Coming from the east, take I-94 west to 63. North on 63 to 64. West on 64 to 65. North on 65 to 200th Ave.



**German Shepherd Dog Club of
Minneapolis/St Paul
August Board Minutes
August 08, 2009**

Mike Metz, President, Julie Swinland, Vice President, Jill Myers, Secretary, Mada Parnell, Treasurer, Board Members:

 Ginny Altman, Board (2 year remaining),

 Board Members Absent:

 Lisa Marie Fortier, (3 year term)

 Liz Oster, Board (1 year remaining)

 Guests – Eileen Varhalla

Mada again hosted this month's meeting at her home and Jill provided the lunch.

President called the meeting to order at 12:10pm

1 President's Report -

- AKC letter responding to show penalties was reviewed. Mike is still awaiting a response back.
- Jim Viken's complimentary letter was reviewed for it's feedback on the current effective, positive leadership and atmosphere of the club which prompted him to join. In particular the great job Mike and Sheila are doing which we couldn't agree with more.

2 Vice President's Report – none

3 Secretary's Report –

- AKC correspondence reviewed. 2010 Specialty Show application needs to be sent in.

4 Treasurer's Report -

- Checking \$5,157.39, savings \$5,700.93, total \$10,858.25
- Discussion regarding the Breed Challenge subscription paid twice in error to the AKC

5 Training Report –

- Recent changes proposed to the training schedule will be brought up for discussion/approval at the next membership meeting.

6 Shep-O-Gram –

- August issue is out. Julie continues to put out a great publication and it was proposed to send a copy

to the AKC.

7 Events –

- State Fair GSD day Sept 6th
- September Canadian Nationals
- September 19th Herding Fun Day at Elysian Farms, same day Polly Simpson's Farm prep for trials.
- October 2nd Herding Test and Trials
- October 10th - 17th GSDCA Nationals
- A 2nd GeoCaching day is in the works for sometime this fall.

8 New Business-

- Linn Klingel will be the new all Breed Liaison and is putting together what that role will consist of.
- Diane Mehra has just completed a training program that certifies her as a trainer for a course that may be good between the puppy and beginner classes. A demo session from Diane will be pursued.
- A motion was made by Ginny Altman to send a plant to Barbara Ricciotti who is in a care facility for Alzheimer's and was carried unanimously.
- Paul Johnson is in the hospital for several days. The club will send flowers.
- Mada Parnell is pregnant with an April baby!! Congratulations Mada!!!

9 Old Business –

- Those attending the State Fair need to let Mike know so he can get name tags, parking passes and a roster. One free class pass for each attendee will be presented to the membership for approval.

Next Board meeting date and place:

Sunday September 6th sometime within 12 – 4pm window at the State Fair.

Meeting adjourned at 12:50pm

Jill Myers, Secretary

German Shepherd Dog Club of Minneapolis/St Paul

August 14, 2009

Board Members: Mike Metz, President, Julie Swinland, Vice President, Jill Myers, Secretary, Mada Parnell, Treasurer,
Board Members Absent: Liz Oster, Board (1 year remaining),
Ginny Altman, Board (2 year remaining)
Lisa Marie Fortier, Board (3 year term)

President called the meeting to order at 8:30pm

Mada Parnell moved that we dispense with the reading of the minutes; it was seconded and carried unanimously.

1. President's Report:

- Mike reviewed the letter received from member Jim Viken complimenting our well run club and Specialty Show.
- The AKC responded back with a reduction of the Specialty Show penalties. Penalties have been reduced to \$100 per incident for a total of \$300.
- Contact the State Fair section leaders if you'd still like to participate in the demo September 6th. Nils moved that cards for one free training session be available for hand out to the audience; it was seconded and carried unanimously.
- There will be no training August 21st due the St Croix show.
- Ginny Altman will cover the desk the month of September and October 9th. It's a great way to learn names and meet other member, contact Mike if interested.

2. Treasure's Report:

- Checking account \$5,187.32, Savings account \$5,701.59 for a total current balance of \$10,888.91

3. Training Report:

- Verna reported that the fall beginner's class starts September 11th.
- The recent changes proposed to the training schedule were discussed. The discussion will be continued at the next board meeting
- There will be training on Labor Day weekend September 4th.

4. Specialty Show Report:

- Holly Bryan and committee continue to review new sites for the 2010 show as well as the possibility of hiring a show secretary.
- Holly expounded on the penalties from the AKC for the 2009 show, thanking Mike and Sheila for their support and composing the letter which reduced in the reduction of the fines.
- Nils Anderson move that the \$300 be made available to pay the AKC penalties. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously. An informal vote forbids Holly from paying any fines out of her own pocket, the penalties were the result of a club oversight and take nothing away from the fabulous job Holly did as show chair.

5. July Match Report:

- Judy Morin summarized the match results and a discussion followed on the great people attendance but not many dogs.
- Judy brought up the need for a procedures manual that has been apparently on the to do list for several years and additional ribbons that need to be ordered for the next match.

6. Membership Report:

- Mike note approximately 35 new members have joined since last year!!

7. Breed Club Challenge Report:

- Pam Magadance continues to add up an impressive number of points for the club.

8. Shep-O-Gram Report:

- The newsletter received honorable mention from the 2008 club newsletter contest. Julie is hoping to place this year and the GSDCA board will begin to receive a copy.
- Send Julie an items regarding Barbara Riccotti.

9. Programs:

- A 2nd GeoCaching event is scheduled for October 23, details to follow.
- A November Friday event at the club this fall was proposed.

10. All Breed Liaison:

- Linn Klingel is submitting a proposal for the position.

11. Announcements:

- Mada Parnell is pregnant!! Congratulations Mada!!
- Paul Johnson is recovering at home after GI surgery. Flowers from the club have been sent. Be sure to wish him well and a quick recovery.
- Barbara Ricciotti is battling breast cancer and Alzheimer's in a care facility. Mada will be personally delivering a flowering plant to her. Some discussion of a possible future fund raising event followed.

12. Old Business:

- Mada moved that entry tickets to the State Fair be purchased for participants at the State Fair; the motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

13. New Business:

- Carol Ouhl has 8-10 years of club history in boxes if anyone has time to sort through and document.
- Thank you Jan and Nils for the cake for Sadie's Best in Futurity in Canada and Sully's Canadian Championship. Also noted; Oscar won Best in Show in Albert Lea, 3 of Verna's dogs placed in top 10 ATAA. Don't forget to send your brags to Julie for publishing in the Shep-O-Gram.

Meeting Adjourned at 9:30pm

Jill Myers, Secretary

ELECTRONIC COLLARS - ABUSIVE & CRUEL OR HUMANE TRAINING TOOL?

CHRIS ROBINSON

Reprinted with permission from the Canine Chronicle

This is a question that has been plaguing dog trainers since the device was first marketed nearly 30 years ago by Tritronics. The gulf between those who absolutely despise electronic collars as abusive and cruel and those who consider them to be an exceptionally effective and humane training tool is so wide it can probably never be bridged.

In some countries of Europe, the electronic collar is all but outlawed and its use is seriously frowned upon in virtually all the European dog society. That is not the case in the highly competitive world of dog sports in the U.S. where advocates trumpet using the collar for everything from training sporting and stock dogs which have to be handled at long distances to achieving perfect performances in obedience and agility.

Is it even possible to have a calm, reasoned discussion about this tool? Well, maybe not but this will be an attempt.

First, a disclaimer. I collar-condition all of my retrievers when they are about a year-old. I do so in case something pops up in training that defies correction by any other means or a training problem develops that potentially puts the dog's life in danger. All of which means that I use the collar only rarely. Secondly, unlike many of the partisans in this debate, I have no really strong feelings, one way or the other, on this issue.

Frankly, there are times when an electronic collar is virtually indispensable. When a dog wants to chase cars, when it won't stop when ordered to do so no matter what it is chasing, in poisonous snake country, there is no training tool that is more effective than the electronic collar in correcting that behavior or in teaching the dog to avoid the snakes. There is little doubt that electronic collars have saved many a dog's life in these situations.

There is also little doubt that in the hands of an untrained amateur trainer, it is the most dangerous tool imaginable. I have seen many, many dogs totally ruined by improper use of the electronic collar and, in fact, I am in the process of trying to rehabilitate a very nice dog that was abused with the collar by someone who only imagined that he had the skills and temperament to be a professional dog trainer—a legend in his own mind.

Before you strap a collar on one of your dogs, you need to understand that there are a lot of things that can go wrong when you use one. I have seen at least as many dogs ruined by the improper use of this tool as dogs that became a finished product as the result of using one.

There are several reasons why there are so many failures. First and foremost is the failure by the owner to properly condition the dog before they use the collar. If they read the directions, a major "if" in a lot of instances, they either failed to understand them or decided they could safely skip a few steps. The number one rule with e-collars is that you CAN'T SKIP ANY STEPS! Not if you want a dog that isn't totally freaked out.

The second major problem is people who use the collar as a teaching tool instead of reserving it exclusively as a correction tool. The collar is a very good correction tool. It is a really BAD teaching tool. If you haven't taken the time to teach the dog what you want them to do and are sure they fully understand what you want them to do, punishing them with a collar because they don't do it only confuses the dog and, in many cases, causes them to quit completely.

Another problem is using the collar to correct several behaviors or cure several problems at the same time. It doesn't work. The dog only winds up wondering what he or she did to merit punishment. Again, the frequent result of such misuse of the collar is a dog doesn't want to do anything. I mean if everything you did resulted in a jolt of electricity, pretty soon you wouldn't do anything either.

Way too many people using an electronic collar have bad technique in that they correct the dog too soon or too late. The virtue of the collar is that it allows you to administer a correction at precisely the time the dog makes a mistake. If you are too early with your correction, you may be telling the dog that something he's doing that's positive is wrong. If you are too late, he may have already forgotten what it was that he did to merit a correction.

The final reason for the high rate of failure is that way too many people are using electronic collars who do not have control over their own temper. If you are angry at the dog, do not hit the button. Better still, don't ever put the collar on the dog in the first place because you may not be able to resist succumbing to the "I'll fix you" mentality.

Electronic Collars Continued

"Is this really necessary" is a question that many thoughtful dog people have asked. Some are convinced that it is a shortcut that has become part and parcel of dog training because "Everybody's doing it." Others contend that it is impossible to train a dog to the levels required in most competitive dog sports without one. Let's get something straight right away. No, it's not absolutely necessary. Perfect examples of this are seeing-eye dogs which are trained to very high levels. You can do the same if you take the time to understand what can be done without a collar, have a training plan and stick to it. People trained dogs for hundreds of years without an electronic collar. But, in truth, the modern collar with its multiple levels of stimulus as well as the ability to administer a correction on a "momentary" or "continuous" basis, is far more humane than some of the training methods that were popular in pre-collar days and certainly more humane than the collar itself in its early days when the only options were no collar at all or "fry 'em."

There are also some dogs that are simply not temperamentally suited for collar corrections. Even the tiniest "nick" or "tap" with the collar at the lowest stimulation levels is enough to crush some dogs. My nephew's hunting dog absolutely freezes when you put an e-collar on her. She simply won't move until it is removed. She was trained by a pro who is actually a gifted and a very widely respected trainer but who admitted that he failed to recognize that she was one of those ultra-sensitive dogs in time. Fortunately, she hunts well without a collar. There are also some entire breeds that do not tolerate a collar well so you'd be wise to find out if your dog is one of the super-sensitive types or if you have one of the breeds for which the collar is anathema before you start using this tool.

So when is electronic collar training a necessity? If you are training for sporting breed field trials or for herding trials, or for today's version of hunt tests, particularly at the senior and master levels, you are probably going to need to use a collar simply because these events require long-range corrections. By the time you manage to catch up with the dog after they have committed a transgression, they've completely forgotten what they did.

There is also another reason why you probably will need to use a collar if you are planning on being active in retriever events, particularly if your breed is a Labrador. For generations Labradors, or at least the field variety, have been bred to tolerate high levels of pain. Often these dogs cannot be trained or even controlled without a collar. It is the sad truth that many retrievers in the U.S. absolutely need a collar so their owners can have some semblance of control over what are often hyperactive and unruly dogs. But, the rest of you who are active in field or performance events need to take a long, hard look at your problem before you resort to using a collar.

I can't think of a single reason to use an electronic collar on an obedience, agility or rally dog. These dogs are never more than 30 feet away from you which means there's no reason why you can't administer a correction that's effective and within the limits of a dog's very short memory without using electricity. A crooked sit now and then is not a good reason to resort to an electronic collar. Nor, for that matter, is just about anything else that might be a problem in obedience, rally or agility just because you find a less than perfect score to be unacceptable. Using an electronic collar in training these dogs, except in exceedingly rare instances, simply tells me that the owner has lost all perspective. While all dog sports are supposed to be fun for the dog, this is especially true with obedience, rally and agility! If you are using an electronic collar, a lot of the fun is going to go out of these sports for the dog and you run the real risk of creating a complete basket case that trembles, cowers and rolls its eyes in fear whenever it has to do these exercises.

This is not going to be a set of directions on how to use an electronic collar. There are several good books and DVDs that will teach you how to collar condition a dog and also tell you how to effectively use one. Keep in mind, however, when you are using one of these books or instructional DVDs, that most of the best ones were written or done by someone who was or still is employed by collar-making companies. They have a vested interest in encouraging you to use a collar for every possible situation. There are a number of areas of dog training where a collar is not only unnecessary but downright detrimental to what you are trying to achieve.

If you can find one near you, there are a number of professional trainers who are highly skilled not only with the collar but are also very good teachers. This is the best of all possible situations because when questions arise, they probably can provide you with an immediate answer.

All of these issues are things you need to think about and better still discuss with knowledgeable dog trainers and others who have had both experience and success in dog sports before you write the check for one. Using an electronic collar needs to be a carefully thought out decision and you must take the time to learn how to use one properly. Your dog deserves nothing less.

Elysian Farm Proudly offers
an American Herding Breed Association (AHBA)
Herding Capability Test /Junior Herding Dog Test
Saturday October 24, 2009
Testing Judge: Tanya Wheeler

The Herding Capability Test is designed for dogs with little to no herding experience. It is run on a noncompetitive pass/not pass system, and leads to the title Herding Capability Tested (HCT). The Junior Herding Dog Test is for dogs at the beginning levels of training, is run on a noncompetitive pass/not pass system, and leads to the title "Junior Herding Dog" (JHD).

Both are open to all herding breeds (purebred or mixed) and any dog over six months of age may participate in the testing portion. Please see www.ahba.org for more AHBA rules and regulations. Our main objective for this test is to introduce handlers and dogs to the world of herding in a fun, relaxed, safe and positive manner.

Herding is a physical sport. Sometimes the dogs will want to work a little "fast" and push the stock into their owners. If you have bad knees, back, ect... this may not be the best place to be. Kim will be available to work your dog so if you are physically unable to be in the arena with your dog, he/she can still have an opportunity to enter the test. Contact Kim for more information.

We will start the afternoon with a basic introduction to herding. Dogs at various levels of training will be demonstrated. After the introduction and demos the testing will begin. The testing may alternate between HCT and JHD runs depending on entries. While each dog is being tested someone will be available outside the arena to explain what is going on and answer questions.

Elysian Farm
Kim and Joe Schneider
23322 Russell Road
Pine City, MN 55063
hzbtt@aol.com
H: 320-629-1068 C: 651-332-6778

Brag's

NEW CDX

Rivaden's Erda Niebelung
owned by Elleen Varhalla
CD, CDX, U-CD, ASCA- CD, RE , PT,
STD's , HTDI, HSA's,TC , TDI , CGC
2nd Open A GSDCMSP 06/22/09 185.5



Am Can CH Mythical Zeus of Black Forest
owned by Connie Karner
Best OppositeSex 8/21/09 North Star Herding
Group Club
Best Opposite Sex 8/23 /09 St Croix Valley KC
Top 25 Ranking in the AKC/Eukanuba
National Championship standings for
German Shepherd Dogs as of 8/13/09

SOGGY by Julie Swinland





AMERICAN
KENNEL CLUB®

An invitation from the AKC

August 18, 2009

Dear AKC®-Registered Dog Owner,

As the owner of a newly registered dog, the American Kennel Club® invites you and your dog to participate in an AKC Canine Experience educational event on September 19, 2009 at the Washington County Fairgrounds, 12300 North 40th Street, Lake Elmo, MN, 55042.

Join fellow dog owners and longtime dog experts to learn the basics about AKC dog events. Then, have the opportunity to practice showing your dog at an AKC-Sanctioned Match in a relaxed environment.

Members of AKC-affiliated clubs from the surrounding area will be available to meet with you and discuss a variety of dog show topics. Additionally, the AKC Clubs in this area will be offering free educational programs to teach dog show basics. This will be followed by a sanctioned match where you can show your dog. Exhibitors may run their dogs through an Obedience or Rally course as well. The AKC Canine Good Citizen (CGC) program will be explained and evaluations will be offered. A dog supply vendor will be onsite with an assortment of products available for purchase.

What to bring:

Bring your whole family and dog at least three months of age with current vaccinations, AKC registration or PAL/ILP number, dog lead, water and bowl, and crate (recommended if you have one).

Planned educational activities include a continuous flow of:

Meet the Breeds

Handling classes for both adults and children (Junior Showmanship)

Grooming tips and demonstrations

Dog Show procedures

Dog Show entry assistance

Equipment advice for show and grooming

AKC Canine Good Citizen (CGC) evaluations

Therapy Dog International

Obedience and Rally run-throughs

Agility Demonstrations

Licensed dog show superintendent information concerning dog shows in your area will be available

The educational programs begin at 9:00 AM and through noon. The all-breed conformation match show entries will be taken from 9:00 to 11:00 AM with a start time of noon.

For additional information, you may contact Pat Cunningham - (218) 828-1690 or sugarbush-dogs@juno.com.

Bully Fest-Bark in the Park

St Paul-Minneapolis Bulldog Club

Saturday, September 19, 2009

Noon to 3 PM

Lakewood Hills Park, 2110 Orchard Lane, White Bear Lake, MN

\$10 per family

Carnival game for dogs and kids, Agility course, Dog information station, Kissing booth, Food booth

Microchip Clinic by IGH Animal Hospital Bring contact info and AKC registration number

Dogs must be vaccinated and leashed

Friendly dogs only

Club Events

State Fair demos September 6

Contact Verna Kubik for information
715-549-6365
vmk4gsds@dishup.us

Geocaching event October 24

Contact Julie Swinland 651-457-5459 or
blackforestgsd@msn.com

Herding Fun Day - September 19 Two runs for
\$25 Contact Eileen Varhalla at evarhalla@aol.
com or call 651-462-1220

Herding Trial October 2

Polly Simpson's Farm New Richmond, WI
The premium list is ready and will be on our
web site soon. Contact Eileen Varhalla for
information. evarhalla@aol.com 651-462-1220
Eileen reported the the trial has filled. Come and
watch!



**New beginning Obedience class starts
September 11. Contact Verna Kubik to register.**

Sept 19 Clean up day for the herding trial at
Polly Simpson's. We need volunteers!
See directions and more information on page 5

**If you are in the State Fair Demos
remember to get your ticket, parking
pass and instructions, from Verna or you
leader.**



Shep-O-Gram
1087 Allen Avenue
W. St Paul, MN 55118



German Shepherd Dog Club
of Minneapolis & St Paul