

Training Committee Meeting

Wednesday, July 2, 2008

6:30 p.m.

NVDTC Clubhouse

Agenda

1. Breed Specific Behavior Seminar (Lea recap event)

Discussed bull breeds, as well as terriers. There was a lot of discussion about pit bulls, assessing them, deciding how to handle them in a class situation. They discussed the hard stare of the bull breeds and the importance of breaking the eye gaze. They mentioned that terriers really want to know what's in it for them. For example, show me the treat and then I'll do it. Terriers are hard to "fake-out." They also discussed how breeding programs breed out particular traits. Facility was very nice (Marin Humane Society). Have classes seven days a week, breed-specific classes, very dedicated volunteers, have smaller classes, etc. They also have dog parks that can be rented out.

2. Mandatory Orientation Discussion

- a. Is it or isn't it? Let's all be on the same page. Orientation is mandatory for those individuals who sign up prior to the start of the session. The only person who can exempt the person from orientation is the trainer, but the handler needs to complete paperwork and pay prior to the start of the session.
- b. Handlers may join the class at Week 2; the office staff may sign them up, and they need to write a note on the trainer's attendance board. We will not accept handlers after Week 2; will sign them up for future session.
- c. If handlers are repeating a class with a different trainer, they should attend that new trainer's orientation.

3. Class Evaluations

There were differing opinions. Ideas for questions: What have you found helpful about the handouts? Please be specific. Pace of the class. Clear instructions from instructor. Got enough attention. What did you like best? How might you improve the class? Would you recommend the class to a friend? Were your issues addressed? We agreed to try a generic evaluation; Laura will work on this and email this to everyone. Laura suggested handing out 3x5 cards at week 4; the handlers write on one side what's working well and what they still need help with on the other side of the card. We'll try this out and see how it works.

4. Handouts-Mar, Kelly, and Lea went through the topic-specific handouts and have identified the duplicate topics and selected the most concise and appropriate handouts. We are recommending

placing different handouts on a table each week and allowing handlers to take them if they have interest. All handlers will still distribute the weekly handouts.

Training Chair is responsible for checking to see that we have enough copies of the club rules and the weekly handouts prior to each session and making copies as needed. For the topic-specific handouts, if handlers find that the supply is running low for any given handout, he/she will make copies to replenish the folder.

5. Positive Interrupt

- a. Puppy / GM 1 / GM 2 Curriculum—Idea to add this to the curriculum. Need to teach handlers how to apply skills out in the environment. For example: A dog sees another dog out for a walk and the handler is yanking and jerking the dog, and could say, “Leave it, come, watch me.” Need to show how to apply and proof the behaviors. It was agreed that we should include the positive interrupt in Week 5 GM I and reinforce Week 2 or 3 of GM II. will work on a new handout and send it to Kelly for review.

6. Attention: Kelly suggested offering an attention workshop. This could be for teams taking classes, as well as potential handler/dog teams. We could sign people up who call in the middle of a session. There would be a limit of working teams, plus auditors. Kelly will work up some curriculum and try it out in the near future.

7. Napa Register Ad—Kelly will place an ad two weeks before the next session starts.

8. Assistants

- a. Are there any new assistants to be recommended? Lea recommended Janet Davis for puppy and G . Mar recommended Laraine Jeffries for puppy and GM. Unanimously approved these two for provisional assistants. Will refer to Board.

9. Review Session 4 Schedule

10. Set Session Dates & Schedule

- a. Session 5
- b. Session 6
- c. Session 7

11. Other-Please review club rules; any feedback should be given to Kelly by email. The red text are items that no longer apply; the blue text are additions.

12. Still having problems with CGC enrollments. Idea is to offer it every other session. We’ll also advertise with local trainers and nearby clubs. Then, we’ll re-assess at the end of the year. We may consider offering an evaluation on a Saturday once we see whether or not our CGC enrollments increase. It was suggested that we contact Paws for Healing to see if they plan to require a CGC. Laura will follow up.

13. Please don’t use sheets in the crates. Bring own blanket.

14. Until further notice, trainers will coordinate their own CGC paperwork and assistants.S
15. Adjourn