

Napa Valley Dog Training Club Training Committee Meeting

October 13, 2010

Meeting called to order by Teresa Russell at 6:40pm.

Attending: May Ash, Marilane Bergfelt, Deassa Binstock, Sandy Bonifield, Laura Ecklin, Kelly Finn, Barry Gordon, Katherine Rhyno, Lynda Rhyno, Lea Ronald, Marlene Soldavini, Gary Walker & Joy Wood.

6-week Session Format:

Discussion on how / what to include in the 6-week class format adopted for 2011. It was agreed that each session would include: Orientation with 5 weeks of direct instruction with dogs; first night handouts (at orientation) will include homework; incorporating confidence building (aka puppy agility) and socialization activities throughout session will be important (not just on last week / graduation).

To make this change successful – committee will have to:

- Double check that first night / homework handout is sufficient.
[Current handout was created by Marilane in mid-2010 to see if owners would utilize. To date this handout has been used by other instructors and committee needs to confirm any changes before 2011 classes begin.]
- Revamp weekly handouts for Puppy & GM1 to fit 6-week format.
[Most likely Marilane will adapt GM1 handouts in December before start of 2011 classes. Instructors with suggestions and/or outline of weekly activities should contact Marilane directly to ensure handouts meet their needs.]
- Provide PDF files on the club website of the Class Registration form & Questionnaire for owners to print and complete before orientation.
- Revamp class signup sheets in office to allow for notes including if owner has internet access, their email address, etc.
[Lynda seemed to have a good sense of what is needed to make these updates to forms.]

Puppy Class Redesign *(continued discussion from August meeting):*

Committee agreed that class will be a 3-week format for dogs 0–6 months of age. Objective is socialization with basic skills included. New handouts were provided at previous meeting for review. Committee agreed to use these handouts with a minor adaption to one piece. This update will be sent to the Board for approval.

- Subcommittee will have class activities, lessons and handouts in place by start of 2011. The subcommittee is: Kelly, Deassa, Marilane, Laura and Lynda.
- Recommended fee schedule: 3-weeks is \$60; 6-weeks is \$115. No drop in offered.
- Proposed name of this class is Puppy Kindergarten.

STAR Puppy *(continued discussion from August meeting):*

Discussion included:

- A) Concerns about socialization of adolescent dogs / off-leash play. Recent class had too many 'difficult dogs' to try this type of activity and so it was done differently than previous class. If this situation comes up again, suggestions included using kiddy gates between dogs while on-leash and small groups with instructor / assistants directing activities.
- B) Concerns were voiced about meeting the AKC criteria for certification while staying true to the meaning of the program and assessing all dogs.
- C) It was agreed to try 6-weeks of instruction with the 7th week for STAR assessment. With the NVDTCC building closed in between sessions, it would allow interested owners to come and try for the STAR Puppy certificate. Committee will see how this 7th week assessment pans out.

STAR Puppy *(continued):*

To make this change successful –

- Committee will have to ensure that camera-readies of STAR pages (AKC pages, Laura's weekly outline & check list) are in the master binder for continued handout at Orientation.
- Committee needs to revisit the AKC criteria for STAR certification to ensure the club is meeting those conditions consistently.
- Laura and Marilane will adapt current Puppy handouts before start of 2011 classes.

New Business:

- Set 2011 - Session 1 (see attached)
 - 2011 – Session 2 was tabled.
 - Trainer's contracts were not available for instructors who have requested the 2010 contracts previously. Teresa will contact Linda Luchsinger to see what can be done about the incomplete forms.
 - Advanced Agility will be moved to 2x each month on Monday evenings. Katherine will instruct with support from Laura. Handlers will be asked to commit / pay for classes at the beginning of each session at the adjusted fee schedule.
 - Joy has taken a new position at work that requires more travel. She will not be able to instruct until her schedule slows down.
- ▶ Lynda requested another committee meeting be scheduled directly after the completion of the current / last 2010 session so that incomplete agenda items can be addressed.

Next meeting TBA.

Meeting was adjourned 8:45pm.

Submitted by,

Marilane Bergfelt

(Meeting Recorder to the Stars)

Agenda Items Not Discussed and held over from August 2010 meeting:

- Need to focus on money making ideas to keep club sound financially.
- Ideas to cut expenses or increase revenue.
- Ideas to enhance GM2, CGC and Advanced Obedience to build more interest and more fees in these classes.
- Targeting dog rescue groups to offer mini-tutorials, vouchers, demos, obedience workshops, volunteer at "rescue reunions".
- Advertising - What works? Can we do something to improve visibility of club.
- Use and distribution of vouchers – limit? Sacred cow? Significant of insignificant impact on bottom line?

Addendum to August Meeting Notes & Session 6 / 2010 Class Schedule – (10-25-10)

At the August 18th meeting, it was agreed that Jim Spiva would teach GM1 on Tuesday nights as a Provisional Instructor under Lea at 5pm. However when classes began for Session 6 the schedule was adjusted. Instructors and assistants were moved / canceled. Apologizes to all those who were impacted by these last minute changes.

5:00pm	CANCELLED
6:00pm	Puppy with Kelly Finn, instructor
7:00pm	GM1 with Jim Spiva, Provisional & Linda Luchsinger, Instructor Marilane Bergfelt, Assistant & Barry Gordon, Provisional
8:00pm	Puppy STAR with Linda Luchsinger and Laura Ecklin, instructors

Session 1 January 3 through February 11, 2011
(6-week format)

Monday (1-3 to 2-7): * 1st & 3rd Mondays only

5:00pm	Good Manners 2	Sandy
6:00pm	Conformation	Michelle
7:00pm	Advanced Agility	Katherine

Tuesday (1-4 to 2-8):

5:00pm	Good Manners 1	Lea
6:00pm	Puppy Kinder	Kelly (with Deassa & Marilane)
7:00pm	STAR Puppy	Kelly
8:00pm	Good Manners 1	Teresa

Wednesday (1-5 to 2-9):

9:00am	Novice / Canine Good Citizen	Marlene
10:00am	Good Manners 1	Marlene
11:00am	Good Manners 2	Marlene
6:00pm	Intermediate Agility	Katherine
7:00pm	Jumpers 1	Laura

Thursday (1-6 to 2-10):

10:00am . . . 7pm	Rally classes	Mary
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Friday (1-7 to 2-11):

5:00pm	Competition Obedience	Teresa
6:00pm	Puppy Kinder	Marilane (with Linda L.)
7:00pm	Good Manners 1	Lynda R.