

Napa Valley Dog Training Club Training Committee Meeting

October 19, 2011

Meeting called to order at 6:35pm by Sandy Bonifield, who also provided more yummy goodies – thanks.

Attending: May Ash, Marilane Bergfelt, Deassa Binstock, Kelly Finn, Linda Luchsinger, Lynda Rhyno, Lea Ronald, Teresa Russell, Marlene Soldavini, Jim Spiva and guest, Margretha Lane.

OLD BUSINESS

Competition Obedience:

This class is continuing on Monday nights from 6 – 7pm. The final class sessions of this year will be: October 31, November 7, November 21 and December 5.

Teresa will replace Linda as the instructor at the beginning of the calendar year due to Linda's work schedule. They will provide the training chair, office coordinator and president with dates of next years classes before the end of this year so they can be added to the club calendar.

Reactive Dog Class:

Deassa submitted the outline for the Reactive Dog (aka: Reactive Rover / Difficult Dog) class for review. She will be offering this class in 2012 and envisions limiting the class to 8 dogs, but that may change as the class develops.

Criteria for the class participants:

Dogs are NOT human reactive / aggressive.

Dogs have been recommended for this class by NVDTTC instructors, outside trainers &/or behaviorists.

Dog who are kicked out of regular classes &/or have spent extended time in dugouts without progress.

Precautions:

Some dogs will be in prong collars (as decided by instructor).

Dogs will be double-collared and leashed.

Aside:

A request was made for training / information on safe ways to split up a dog fight. Deassa is knowledgeable with 'brake sticks' but other sources are probably out there. Linda felt it would be helpful for all the instructors and assistants to have those skills. No one offered to research options or bring back information to the group.

Training Equipment:

Clients are coming into classes with front-clip harnesses or wanting to try them. The club purchased 3 harnesses (small, medium and large) for client use during classes. To help fill the need, Marilane purchased 2 more (medium-large and large). In addition, she and Lynda have placed a harness on a stuffed dog and included it in the orientation box (alongside the dog with a gentle leader), plus they have researched and created a handout that shows how to measure and size the harness.

The harnesses are kept on a single clip, on the back of the office door (with the leather leashes). The handout is on a clipboard, hanging on the wall just inside of the office door. There is also a measuring tape to help clients discover the correct size for their pet.

Anyone with unused harnesses are asked to donate them to the club to help fill out the supply.

Reminders:

When a student missed 2 classes, the instructor is to contact the Training Chair. The Chair is to speak with the student to learn why they are missing class and if there is a problem.

NEW BUSINESS

Assistants:

Maria Giaccio provided a resume of her experiences with dogs and dog training for consideration as a Training Assistant. After a brief discussion, the committee agreed to having Maria assist in Good Manners 1. She will need to complete her provisional first, and the committee hoped that she could work with Lea &/or Lynda at the start of next year.

This recommendation will be forwarded to the Board.

Incident Report:

Marilane created a new incident report. It is now a one-page, two-sided piece that includes contacts and witnesses, and requires follow-up by a second NVDTTC member. Concerns about confidentiality was discussed. Final agreement by the committee was: Marilane will make a simple addition as suggested by Mar; any completed incident reports will be announced at the next trainer's meeting following the incident; and all completed forms (and back-up materials) be filed at the club.

This form, upon final change, will be forwarded to the Board.

Training Class for Kids:

Cheryl Meyer has suggested a training class designed for children (which she has seen elsewhere). After some discussion, Teresa offered to locate young children groups (boy scouts, girl scouts, etc) that might be interested in learning about dog training. NVDTTC Members would attend their meetings and talk about training, safety, and/or other. Some committee members were interested in this type of 'community outreach' and hoped it would help to PR the club.

Note: A similar class was suggested to this committee a few years ago by a current instructor. Outline was provided and included safety measures, kids working with dogs already trained with children in schools and educational pieces for clients. The concept was dropped due to the concerns of a few instructors over the age of client's dogs which would eventually arrive to class. Also, Napa Humane currently has a Dog Safety Program, under the direction of Wendi Piscia, in the schools and elementary aged children's groups.

2012 Training Sessions:

The committee agreed and will propose to the Board that we return to a 7-week training format starting January 2012. See attached page for 7-week and 6-week options.

Class Schedules for Session 1 & 2 of 2012 sent via separate file.

Aside: One person voiced a concern about the title for the Adolescent Dog class. A discussion followed which resulted in no changes to the class titles or descriptions.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45pm

Submitted by,

Marilane Bergfelt (Meeting Typist to the Stars) & *Margretha Lane* (Meeting Recorder to the Stars)

NVDTC – Proposed Schedules for 2012

Proposed 7-Week Sessions in 2012

- Session 1: January 9, 2012 to February 24
(One week off)
- Session 2: March 3, 2012 to April 20
(One week off)
- Session 3: April 30, 2012 to June 15
(One week off)
- Session 4: June 25, 2012 to August 17 (one week BREAK for 7-2 to 7-6)
(One week off)
- Session 5: August 27, 2012 to October 12
(NO BREAK between sessions !!)
- Session 6: October 15, 2012 to December 7

Proposed 6-Week Sessions in 2012:

- Session 1: January 9, 2012 to February 17
(One week off)
- Session 2: February 27, 2012 to April 4
(One week off)
- Session 3: April 16, 2012 to May 25
(One week off)
- Session 4: June 4, 2012 to July 20 (one week BREAK for Independence Day)
(One week off)
- Session 5: July 30, 2012 to September 7
(One week off)
- Session 6: Sept. 17, 2012 to October 26
(NO BREAK between sessions !!)
- Session 6: October 29, 2012 to December 14 (one week BREAK at Thanksgiving)