

Hi Everybody!

Well, starting next month, Agility season is getting ready to go into full swing! We have several Cool Critters shows coming up and we will need lots of help.

September 30, October 1 & 2, is our USDAA (United States Dog Agility Association) in the Mosaic Arena in Palmetto. This is our biggest show of the year, and we will be having all three USDAA Tournaments! The show starts at 4PM on Friday, September 30, and we will be loading the truck at 9AM that Friday. We have to take just about all the equipment from the school, so we REALLY need help loading up and setting up at the arena. Helpers get a four week class card for loading and another 4 week class card for setting up the rings and the equipment at the arena.

November is a really busy month! In November, the NADAC staff is coming to our school to do a couple of seminars and will be having a trial or "Fun-Raiser" on November 12 & 13, right here at the school. The premium for that trial is at http://nadac.com/nadac_premiums.htm. Our Thanksgiving trial is November 25, 26 & 27 at the Mosaic Arena in Palmetto. This is our 10 Year Anniversary of NADAC trials and we have some fun celebrations planned.

December 17 & 18, 2011 is the AKC Agility Invitational in The Orlando Convention Center. They will also be holding the Obedience Invitational, and the Eukanuba Classic. They are still needing volunteers for the Invitational, and there is an online form at <http://www.tfaforms.com/207361>. The deadline for submitting the forms is Friday, October 28, 2011. Volunteering at such an event is an opportunity to experience the excitement first hand! All volunteers will receive lunch, admission tickets, an Invitational Volunteer tee-shirt, and a parking pass, however, the best perk of all is the front row seat you will have while watching the Top Dogs in the country compete.

An Ounce of Prevention

In the past month, I have heard of several cases where repair people, and other workers have come into a home to be confronted by unfriendly dogs, or dogs that jump all over them. Many dogs think that everyone that comes to the house comes to visit them, and they proceed to show this gratitude by wildly bouncing off visitors. Other dogs feel that the intruders are a danger to the family and express this attitude in no uncertain terms. In either case, I believe it to be very unfair and rude for workers and guests to come into your house, to visit or provide a service, and be accosted by wild dogs.

The solution? Confine your dogs when strangers come in the house. Since I have both overly friendly and over protective dogs in my pack, I put them up in a bedroom or their crates when strangers come to visit. If it's workers, I let them do their jobs without interruption, if it's visitors, I find out if they want to

meet the dogs, and then let the dogs come out to greet them. Usually, after having been confined for a while, the dogs are much calmer when they come out to greet the company. Please be proactive and keep your dogs from making a nuisance out of themselves or scaring people that come to visit!

No Classes on Labor Day

There will be no classes on Monday, September 5...Labor Day

Over the Rainbow Bridge

A couple of weeks ago, Don and Debi White sent their beloved Elijah over the Rainbow Bridge. Elijah and Debi started Basic Obedience two years ago. Elijah would not even take treats, he was so apprehensive, he did not even want to walk on a leash. Debi proved to be one of the most tenacious, and gifted trainers I have ever had as a student. Within a year, she had Elijah ready to compete not only in Novice Obedience but Agility as well. We were all planning to enter Boxer Nationals in Kentucky, and then the axe fell. The day before Debi and Don were to leave, Elijah had a massive seizure and was diagnosed with a brain tumor. He was only given three months to live. Don & Debi did not give up and researched the most up to date treatments for Elijah's tumor, not only in this country, but all over the world. Two years later, Elijah was still alive, he proved to be a real fighter. In the end, it was not the tumor that caused his death, but an infection. What a great example these doggy parents are!

In memory of Elijah, Don & Debi are hosting a benefit on Sunday, September 18, with several events with profits going to Florida Boxer Rescue. They will have a massage therapist and hydrotherapy (for dogs), no anesthesia dentals, a doggy communicator, and garage sale. For more information contact Debi and Don at atlwhite@aol.com.

Class Schedule

Monday:

6:15 to 7:00 PM - Super Puppy (Next class starting September 19, 2011)

7:00 to 8:00 PM - Basic Agility (next class starting October 10, 2011)

8:00 to 9:00 PM - Intermediate Agility

Tuesday:

9:00 AM to 10:00AM - Small Dog Agility

6 to 7PM - Distance work class

7:00 PM Masters / Advanced Level Agility

Wednesday:

6:15 to 7:00 PM - Super Puppy class (Next class starting October 12, 2011)

7:00 to 8:00 PM - Intermediate Agility
8:00 to 9:30 PM - K9 Nosework class (Advanced class starting August 10, 2011)

Thursday:

7:00 to 8:00 PM - Basic Obedience (Next class starting September 22, 2011)
8:00 to 9:00 PM - Rally Obedience

Friday:

9:00 to 10:00 AM - Advanced Agility
10:00 to 11:00 AM - Intermediate Agility
7:00 to 8:30PM - Beginning Nosework Class (Next class starting August 12, 2011)

Congratulations to Our Latest Graduates

Basic Agility:

Kim Cackowski & Lucy (Border Collie)
Amy Hanley & Harley (All American)
Jennifer Leigh & Felix (Kelpie)
Jennifer Duvall & Rio (Lab mix)
Julie Martinez & Bode (Sheltie)
Petra Taylor & Alexa (Rottweiler)

Super Puppy:

Toni & Rick Petak with Martini (Chorky)
Ben Ledwon & James Bond (Shi Poo)
Cathy & Loren Hendly with Coiper (Havanese)
Kristen & Rich Pogorzala with Lucy (Chihuahua Mix)
Fran Telese & Artemis (Shepherd Mix)
Bobbie Dodson & Romeo (Old English Sheepdog)

From Donna Johnston

Just A Dog

From time to time, people tell me, "lighten up, it's just a dog," or, "that's a lot of money for just a dog." They don't understand the distance traveled, the time spent, or the costs involved for "just a dog."

Some of my proudest moments have come about with "just a dog."

Many hours have passed and my only company was "just a dog," but I did not once feel slighted.

Some of my saddest moments have been brought about by "just a dog," and in those days of darkness, the gentle touch of "just a dog" gave me comfort and reason to overcome the day.

If you, too, think it's "just a dog," then you will probably understand phrases like "just a friend," "just a sunrise," or "just a promise."

"Just a dog" brings into my life the very essence of friendship, trust, and pure unbridled joy.

"Just a dog" brings out the compassion and patience that make me a better person.

Because of "just a dog" I will rise early, take long walks and look longingly to the future.

So for me and folks like me, it's not "just a dog" but an embodiment of all the hopes and dreams of the future, the fond memories of the past, and the pure joy of the moment.

"Just a dog" brings out what's good in me and diverts my thoughts away from myself and the worries of the day.

I hope that someday they can understand that it's not "just a dog" but the thing that gives me humanity and keeps me from being "just a woman or man."

So the next time you hear the phrase "just a dog." just smile, because they "just don't understand."

...and now, time for a paws...

Ileana