



COMMON SCENTS

May/June, 1992
Vol. 16., No. 3



Lenape Tracking Club of Central New Jersey

TENTATIVE DATES TO REMEMBER

TED Follow-up
Sunday, July 12, 1992

TED Follow-up
Saturday, August 15, 1992

Tracklayer Certification
Saturday, August 22, 1992

Certification Match
Sunday, September 20, 1992

Tracking Test
Sunday, November 1, 1992

WHO'S WHO

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Tracking Experience Day
Tracking Test Secretary
Newsletter

Linda Riley
Linda Riley
Pat Etchells

; From the President's Desk: ;

Well, TED and our first follow-up are behind us. I would like to thank all those who helped make these successful occasions. This year's experience was a bittersweet one for me. It did not seem like a typical TED without Fran there to guide things along, and although the Lebanon Township facilities were excellent, they do not have the same charm that we experienced at Jane Henderson's farm.

This year we implemented some new features at TED. In addition to Ronn and Kandi demonstrating a sample track, JoAnne MacKinnon and Ruby showed how easy it is to start a dog. I think a lot of people enjoyed seeing both demonstrations and felt that it encouraged them during the hands-on part of the day. Marty also measured off a hundred yard straight track and one for the participants to tell us the length of. If I remember right, the length was 77 yards, so those guessing had to do some math to arrive at the correct amount. One person won with 77; however, there were several 76s and 78s in the running. The comments I received from participants both at TED and afterwards were that the experience was informative, fun and has started them tracking.

Our first follow-up was on June 6th and we had nine dogs show up. People were anywhere from week one to week three, and by the looks of the way they have been working, we should have some good candidates for our fall match and show! We held the follow-up in Deer Path Park in Hunterdon County, which was a very nice. This day was a learning experience not only for those returning from TED but for the club members also. Peg, JoAnne and I were working with someone who pointed out an error in the tracking handbook concerning discontinuing the use of a glove for non-retrieving dogs!

One final item. Pat and I recently attended a NJFDC meeting. The program dealt with how bills go through the state legislature. Fortunately, at the present time no state anti-dog legislation seems to be in the works, (and the federal "Puppy Lemon Law" is being rewritten). Following the program was a lengthy discussion of the Guidelines for Responsible Breeders. After two roll-call votes, amended guidelines were passed, and breeders must sign them before the NJFDC will accept a listing for the Directory of Breeders. Basically the Federation is taking steps to ensure ethical breeding and responsibility for puppies produced before San Mateo-type legislation sets unreasonable, uninformed limitations. An unofficial copy (based on notes taken at the meeting) of the Guidelines appears later in the newsletter.

Keep on tracking!

John Etchells



The LOOS have another CD. Their rescue Collie Sammi got her title in May in three trials. This was her fourth home - after she arrived at Collie Rescue so terrified of even the simplest things in life that it was thought she could never be adopted!

MARION RAPP reports that Windsor, her Pembroke Corgi, got the first leg on his CD at the Potomac Specialty with a 187.5 and a third place.

GSD Kelly SEUTER earned her TDX at the Hudson Valley test on her first try! See "Tanaquil's Machine Gunn Kelly UDTX" on page 5.

MARTHA WINDISCH's Golden Tawny had a successful day at Hudson Valley's TD test. See "How Tawny Earned her Tracking Title" on page 3.

News wanted!!! Send your tidbits to PO Box 326, Lebanon, NJ 08833

TED '92

by Linda Riley

TED 1992 has passed into history. This year there were some new elements, some of which were sad. First, for the Lenape members who attended, it was sad not to have Fran there running the show. She was missed, and it is a testament to the amount of work she did in the past that it took a committee to replace her. Second, it was sad not to be at the Henderson farm. Unfortunately, it is the popularity of TED that brought about that change. The number of people and dogs attending had expanded to the point where we were imposing on Jane's hospitality, and we had outgrown the garage at her ranch house. We are deeply grateful to Jane for her generosity in the past.

Our new TED location at the Lebanon Township Municipal Building was a huge success. We were able to comfortably accommodate everyone inside, which was fortunate since rain had been forecast. The weather was a tracker's dream - cool and damp - comfortable for the dogs and great for scent. This was demonstrated by the superb track run by Ronn Loos and Kandi. All our novices got to see just what the finished product should look like.

Another innovation this year was to expand the variety of items available at the sale table. The nylon harnesses and tracking lines proved to be a huge success. People appreciated being able to try them on their dogs before buying.

This year we again filled our quota of participants well before the date entries closed. We even had an extensive waiting list of hopefuls. Since there were some last-minute cancellations, we were eventually able to accommodate almost everyone on the waiting list. Lenape members were treated to working with some different breeds this year - Basenji, Cardigan Welsh Corgi, Petit Basset Griffon Vendeen, Irish Water Spaniel, Rhodesian Ridgeback and Clumber Spaniel - to name a few.

All in all it was a successful and profitable event for the Club. This success was made possible by the fantastic turnout of Lenape members who came to help. We were able to assign 3 club members to each group in the field, and as a result each participant got plenty of individual attention. Thanks to all who spoke, helped in the field, brought food, sold wares and did anything else asked of you - without you, it wouldn't have been possible.

Hope to see you at the follow-ups. Anyone interested in helping, please contact Linda Riley, PO Box 580. Califon, NJ 07830 (908) 832-6226.

How Tawny Earned her Tracking Title

by Martha Windisch

After Tawny completed her UD, even though I am not much of a morning person, I decided that maybe we would try tracking. Thus, we attended Tracking Experience Day 1991. During the summer of 1991 I taught her the basics using Glen Johnson's tracking book. In September, we tried the Lenape Match, but I failed to read her second turn (which she also indicated quite poorly after rolling in deer droppings.) In the fall she completely ceased to track. She could not find a triple-laid track which was less than 10 minutes old due to her coming into season. We then took a break until she got her nose back. During the winter of 92 we worked on turns to get her used to indicating them while I held my position. During this time I realized that she is a "left-handed" tracker. Coming into the spring of 1992, we were becoming much more of a team, although she was not always confident at the starts. At this time I realized that if I did not get pushy with her at the start, she usually would take it - eventually.

This brings me to the certification match in Maryland. Boy was it windy - you could lean into it and not fall over! As we approached the start of our track #3, I figured that the wind might throw her off, especially since the starting flag was loudly flapping over the track. Well, she really stressed me out when she stood at the start for 4 minutes sniffing the wind. Somehow I remained patient (or maybe petrified!) and all of a sudden, she put her nose down and did the entire track at record speed of just under 6 minutes. I have no idea of where that track went. I was just trying to keep the line from getting tangled and from falling on my face in the corn stubble. Due to the hilly terrain and to her speed, when she grabbed the glove, I hardly had the breath to praise her.

After the match, I sent my entry into Hudson Valley Tracking Club's test. I had to send it overnight to make the closing! I figured that I would try a test before she again came into season in case she stopped tracking. The day of the test was cool, damp, and foggy. It seemed to be perfect tracking weather except that Tawny has not read the book! Sometimes she seems to track better during warm, dry and windy weather. I drew track #7, which was good since they were laying three at a time. While waiting for our tracks to be laid, I tried to convince Tawny that a rawhide bone would be waiting at the end. I think she saw right through me, because her start was still a bit nerve wracking, although fortunately not four minutes' worth. This time she stood still for only a few seconds then put her nose down and sniffed the track. Only trouble is that she did not pinpoint it, and she circled around behind me before I had moved. At that time I encouraged her over to the start and she took it!!! Boy did she take it fast! I practically jogged most of the track, and I really concentrated on her as she indicated each turn perfectly. Again I had no idea of how many turns we had actually taken although many appeared to be to the left (3 of the 4 were lefties). At the end she passed by the glove because she was downwind of the track. Fortunately, because of the tree line ahead, I spotted it and got her to circle behind me for it. As soon as she circled behind me, she saw the glove and actually pounced on it! At that moment I praised her and asked the judge, "Did we do it?" The judge replied, "Well, you do have the glove, don't you!".

Barking

by Gwen Bohnenkamp

From the Pet Gazette, September/October 1991 via The Hudson Valley Tracker Dec '91/Jan '92

Who would tolerate putting a shock collar on a crying baby? Would anyone cut the vocal cords or swat their canary with a rolled up newspaper for singing? Why do we do these things to our dogs just because they bark? Barking is normal behavior for dogs, and if you have a dog, you better expect him to bark!

The good news is you CAN control your dog's barking. Dogs that are isolated or confined for long periods become bored and restless. They often take up barking to vent their excess energy and frustration. You can reduce the barking by scheduling daily play sessions with your dog. It is important that this time period be routine. Your dog needs to know that he can depend on this special time so he doesn't become anxious and restless. A good hardy play session, especially with other dogs, will tire your dog and give him the exercise he needs. A happy, well-exercised dog will contentedly sleep the day away while you're not home.

Some dogs bark nervously at every sound and movement outside the home. Take time to walk your dog around your neighborhood and introduce him to the people and causes of these activities. Once your dog becomes comfortable with the day-to-day occurrences, he will be calmer and not feel the need to bark nervously at them. To further relax your dog when you are not home, leave the radio or TV on to mask some of the outside noises. Leave your curtains closed so he doesn't see everything that passes in front of your house.

Many dogs bark as a demand for attention. They bark to be let outside, they bark to be let back inside, they bark for treats, they bark just so that you will look at them and talk to them. Even subtle rewards encourage and teach your dog to bark excessively.

Teach your dog to be quiet on request. When he is barking out of control, quietly ask him to please "Be quiet." If he ignores you and continues barking, immediately shout a very loud, "BE QUIET!" or splash him in the face with water. After a few repetitions, your dog will get the idea and obey the first quiet request of "Be quiet!" rather than be screamed at or doused with water. As soon as your dog stops barking, instantly praise and reward him.

Many people are eager to reprimand the dog for barking, but few remember to praise him when he is quiet. It's easy to fall into the trap of forcefully commanding the dog to be quiet but then ignoring the dog if he obeys. With this approach, training becomes an unpleasant series of punishments and the problem is never resolved. This is not fair to the dog and it will be frustrating at best for you. For every one reprimand, there should be at least 50 times the dog is praised and rewarded for being quiet.

Tanaquil's Machine Gun Kelly UDTX!

by Dottie Seuter

Forty-eight hours have passed since Kelly indicated the final article on her track at HVTC's TDX Test on April 19, 1992, and I still haven't come down to earth yet! She, on the other hand, is dozing on a sheepskin rug next to me patiently awaiting whatever quixotic escapade her "mother" has in store for her next!

Although last month was unusually wet, and I knew that the fields at New Paltz had been pretty soggy, I had been hoping we would have "a little" rain a few days prior to the test so that the top cover wouldn't be all dried out,. Ha! I think it rained every day for the week before the test, and I was beginning to wish I could swap my trusty German Shepherd for a Newfoundland.

It was drizzling as Kelly and I left Long Island, but by the time we got to the fields, the day seemed to be improving slightly. It was overcast and cool, but the rain had stopped and the wind had died down. I was hoping I'd draw the first track so that I wouldn't have too much time to think about everything that could possibly go wrong. I pulled the fifth track! I have to confess that due to the stalwart efforts of Diane Bauman (who fed me Pepto Bismol for my queasy stomach and whose calming presence and encouragement really got my focus off of my anxiety) and Mary Ann Svizeny, who kept me laughing as usual, I actually felt reasonably confident by the time our turn arrived.

Once Kelly got off to a good start, the most amazing thing happened. I began to feel as if we were one individual. It was absolutely incredible as I felt tremendous confidence and calmness radiating from her. We made a right turn, and then she jumped across a ditch filled with water (stumbled through it - thank goodness for Wellies!). After another right she made a small check of what were the first set of cross tracks, crossed the road and found the first article. Up again, right turn back across the ditch which continued through the field we were now in, never even noticed the next set of cross tracks, a left turn, another left turn and into high cover which felt like bamboo stakes (yuck), and there was the next article. Back to work - oops it can't go into that deep pond, can it? No, we veer off to the right just at the water's edge, then another right turn and out of the cover and up the slope of the field. I sense that the glove may be getting close. I slow down. Both of us are getting too excited, and what if there is another turn? Suddenly Kelly throws herself down on the glove, and I'm laughing, crying and kissing her all at the same time. She did it - unbelievable!

Kelly's accomplishments during the preceding twelve months have surpassed my wildest fantasies. Her TD (on her first try), her UD (three first places and two high combined) and her TDX (on her first try). All this with the immense handicap of having to deal with my attacks of "competition nerves". Thank goodness she was always able to deal with the extra pressure by giving me one of her famous withering looks as if to say, "Don't worry mom, stay out of my way and I'll handle this for both of us", and she did.

Our progression from TD to TDX level work proceeded quite steadily, due in great part to the efforts of a number of people who generously gave their time to lay tracks for me and/or critique my not always sterling performances. People who freely shared their knowledge, saving me from a lot of beginner blunders I would have absolutely made on my own. I especially want to thank Dot Vail, Tony and Mary Ann Svizeny, Michael Clemens, Lydia Strawbridge, Diane Bauman, Doris Tchoke, Kay Kleisler and Dorit Vanderwilden. I truly believe tracking is one sport where people who have experience can make a tremendous contribution to the ultimate success or failure of newcomers and their continued interest and participation. I hope I am now skilled enough, in some small way, to help someone else discover the absolute wonder of following your best friend as he or she drags you blindly along behind, through all kinds of cover in all kinds of weather and until he or she suddenly pounces on a one inch square piece of leather and you feel as if you've won the ultimate prize, and you have!

Conversion of Paces to Yards

From Cross Tracks, March, 1992

A lot is made of converting paces to yards, but except for judges, it is totally unnecessary. To teach a dog to track, one does not have to know exact yardage. All one has to know is that lengths should vary, but these lengths can be in paces or yards. So what if you practice 45 yard legs instead of 50? Perhaps all the better that you do! If your pace is less than one yard, be sure to lay TD practice tracks of over 550 to 600 paces, and you will be safe.

People Tracks

featuring Christy Shore

Christy has always been a dog lover and grew up around dogs. As a child Christy would send messages home to her mother tied to the neck of her English Spaniel. She was always drawn toward shepherds - even to the extent of wandering away from her folks at a circus when she was 8 - to play with the guard dogs under a semi!

She always trained the family dogs to do tricks and help with various chores, such as carting home groceries. When her family got a registered shepherd during her teens, Christy was able to do some formal obedience training and helped earn this dog's CD. The first shepherd of her own was a Mr. Spock, whom she started training in obedience and tracking.

When she and her husband were stationed in Germany, she was introduced to Schutzhund tracking and protection work. The tracking there was a little different in that they work on all types of land - dirt, pasture, cultivated fields, forest, etc., since there is no restriction on the type of ground which will be selected for their tests. Generally they work on a leather collar with the lead going under the front leg. Christy feels Americans are more structured in their training approach, but the Germans are more likely to get rid of a poorly working dog.

Once they returned to America, Christy acquired a typy brood bitch. She bred her into German stock, and is currently developing her own line which will combine the beauty of the American Shepherds with the working ability of the German dogs. Now besides breeding, Christy is involved with training her dogs in obedience, tracking, herding and agility.

Titles of some of Christy's dogs are:

Kamarak's Qudrat of Alkara, CD, SchB, TC, HIC

Woodhaven's Elisha, CD, SchB, TC, HIC

A systems analyst who sometimes works at home, Christy is able to utilize little snippets of time while her computer is doing its thing to have short training sessions with her dogs. She is married to Tom Kuligowski, and they just moved to South Jersey to have more room for their dogs. They have 3.5 acres of their own and permission to use the adjacent 23 acres, so they now have no excuse for not getting to track frequently! At least two of their children have participated in Junior Showmanship, showing a Belgian Tevuren and a Beagle.

Her amusing story:

Zeke the Peke is a rescue from the local shelter. After he lost the peripheral vision in one eye, he had a problem coming down the spiral staircase. Christy had to teach him to stay to the right, alongside the wall, where the stairs were wider. She used seeing eye teaching techniques to get him to bump his shoulder to the wall as he came down the stairs, and he now navigates them just fine.

"This seems like a good place to end this little story, but it had an epilogue. Our 10-month male Shepherd pup was running with Zeke upstairs and lost his footing. The Shepherds take the stairs in a running leap up the middle. Anyway, this boy stopped in mid-stair and started to retreat back down. Zeke ran down to him and barked sharply. The pup stopped. Zeke got nose to nose with him and barked again. He then deliberately shoved himself against the wall and went up one step. Looking over his shoulder, he again barked at the pup and then continued up the stairs. When the pup did not follow, Zeke turned around and returned to reteach the exercise. Again he barked, bumped against the wall, moved up one step and over his shoulder barked again before going to the top. This time the pup moved over and followed. To this day, that pup has not stumbled again. Now whenever I get frustrated teaching my Shepherds a simple obedience exercise, I remember that if a half blind Peke can teach them, anyone can!"

Maureen Foley's "Getting Started Toward the TDX"

by Martha M. Hamil

Linda Riley, Carol Salzetti, Martha Windisch, and I attended Maureen Foley's tracking seminar that Philadelphia Dog Training Club sponsored. The weather was terrible getting there but turned into perfect tracking conditions in the afternoon - cool, overcast, and damp. The format was similar to our TED with lectures in the morning and fieldwork in the afternoon. The distinct difference was that the participants' experience varied from never having seen a dog track to people with 30 years and several titled dogs. This, I believe, diluted the experience for both types and especially for the beginners. However, I learned several things and believe that Lenape can adapt several of Mo's ideas for ourselves and for TED.

They only allowed 15 dogs (any number of participants). Linda got to bring Molly, one of two dogs there with a TD, and I got to bring Tracey, the youngest there at 4½ months. Tracey was also the most energetic. Carol brought her Dachshund and Martha Windisch had her Golden, Tawny. Both Molly and Tawny got their first experience with cross tracks. The cross tracks were about an hour old on a two-hour track. Mo laid tracks for Tracey to demonstrate how to start a dog with a strong prey drive (object orientation or focus). (Tracey is also a carrier and a natural retriever.) Tracey's tracks had no food on them, just the glove. The first one she just bounded out to the glove and grabbed it. The second was longer and she couldn't see the glove. So she put her nose down and found it. Mo recommended that I continue the glove only tracks for a couple of weeks and then start using food to tighten up Tracey's tracking. This **working on the prey drive** was one of the differences in her methods compared to Johnson.

Ms. Foley has no "new" information and basically follows Johnson. She has modified his methods dramatically in places. Her basic philosophy is to start young and to train with the TDX in mind. Also, she only tracks **once or twice a week** and does not do all the multiples that Johnson recommends. Because of that she plans each tracking session carefully. **Each track must count.** Moreover, she breaks the skills into small pieces and works on each on separately.

With the Foley system you **start the TDX work very early** - as soon as the dog can track in a straight line for 60 to a 100 yards. This work includes cover changes, directional starts, low fences, multiple articles and restart, paths and roads, simple woods, distraction training, and anything else that might be an obstacle. But only do one of these at a time and she advises **"let the dog work it out"**, that is, don't be in too big a rush to show the dog the track. Give it two or three minutes, even five if it's still working. (My Tracey spent a good three minutes this morning just standing there with her head up and I hadn't said a word when she put her head down and went to the end of the track another 50 yards away.) Mo also advises to not increase distance if you increase age and to back off on age when increasing distance.

Perhaps the most different thing that Mo said was **never double lay a track**. She "kicks in" the track and believes that if Johnson had revised his book, he would have changed the double lay part. Her reasoning is that the dog must learn that the track has direction and a double laid track does not have that aspect; if anything, the dog learns the wrong direction.

Her handouts included a set of maps to illustrate the kind of track to approach a new skill or a problem. If any Lenape members would like these, please let me know and I will make them a set. All in all, I found it a very worthwhile seminar and have been using some of her suggestions. They seem to work.

NJFDC Guidelines for Responsible Breeders

(Unofficial Copy)

1. All dogs shall be kept under sanitary conditions and shall be given maximum health protection through regular inoculations and proper nutrition. Dogs shall be contained within safe restrictions when the breeder/owner cannot personally supervise their safety.
2. All breeders shall keep accurate and complete personal records of breedings, litters, pedigrees, and puppy owners' information as required by AKC.
3. All puppies leaving the breeder's possession shall be a minimum of seven (7) weeks of age, except in those breeds where a twelve (12) week age is generally accepted.
4. All breeders of purebred dogs shall breed to conform to the American Kennel Club's Standard of Excellence for their breed and only from quality, healthy stock. Breeders will screen for inherited diseases/disorders as known in their breed.
5. Breeders shall provide the puppy buyer with written details of feeding, general care, dates and types of inoculations and wormings, grooming instructions, etc., and be available to offer future advice as needed.
6. Breeders will not knowingly sell or consign puppies or adult dogs to pet stores, puppy brokers or other commercial dealers.
7. All puppies will be sold with written contracts appropriate for show/breeding quality or pet quality specifications, guarantees and restrictions. The contract will ensure that the breeder will be contacted whenever an owner can no longer keep a dog at any time in the dog's life, and it will be the obligation of the breeder to assist in placement of the dog. Puppy purchasers should be urged to spay or neuter all pet quality puppies.
8. Dogs and bitches will not be bred before or after such age as is customary for their breed as outlined by the Parent Club's and/or AKC's guidelines. The breeder will allow proper, healthy spacing between litters.
9. Breeders will permit stud service only to quality, healthy bitches, appropriately screened for inherited diseases/disorders, owned by individuals who give satisfactory evidence that they will give these puppies proper care and attention and who are in agreement with these and Parent Club guidelines for responsible breeders.
10. Prospective buyers should be screened as thoroughly as possible to determine their desire and ultimate intent for each puppy or dog, and also for their interest and ability to provide a safe, adequate and loving home for each puppy or dog acquired.
11. Breeders will not dispose of any puppies or adult dogs bred or owned by them in shelters or pounds.

Hold the Onions!

From NJFDC Newsletter, Summer, 1992

The American Hospital Association (AAHA) reports that dogs and onions are a bad combination. Recent research shows that onions apparently attack a dog's red blood cells and can cause it to develop anemia. The result is that the dog will then pass blood in its urine. Other signs of onion toxicity may be shortness of breath, weakness and/or vomiting.

If your pet shows any of these symptoms, the AAHA recommends that you contact your veterinarian immediately. Although anemia is not usually fatal, it can cause the dog a lot of discomfort. To be on the safe side, keep "Fido" out of the garbage can - and don't give him bites of your hamburger!