



COMMON SCENTS

July/August, 1992
Vol. 16., No. 4

Lenape Tracking Club of Central New Jersey

DATES TO REMEMBER

TED Follow-up
Saturday, August 15, 1992

Certification Match
Sunday, September 20, 1992

Tracklayer Certification
Sunday, August 23, 1992

Tracking Test
Sunday, November 1, 1992

// From the President's Desk: //

Greetings! The dog days of summer are upon us, and most farmers in the area are out taking their second cutting of hay, so soon the fields will be ready for serious tracking. Although for some it is the lazy, hazy days of summer, it is a busy time for Lenape.

Our last T.E.D. follow-up is planned for this coming weekend at Deer Path Park. Some of our current "crop" of participants are doing serious tracking and should be good candidates to take part in our match and test.

Another event for this month is our second tracklayer certification test. This year the Board elected to open it up to both members and T.E.D. participants. As the club strives to improve upon this program, we have added a new feature to the certification - an open book test of the tracking rules. (A copy of the rules will be provided by the club.) So all of you who have not certified as a tracklayer for Lenape events, come on out! It should be a good day and a lot of fun. A flier is enclosed explaining what we plan to do.

After the tracklaying certification test (at around 3 p.m.) we will hold a short organizational meeting for developing a Lenape video on tracking. A lot of people have expressed an interest in putting one together, and we have talked a lot about doing it - now we are going to make it happen. I have the names of some who volunteered, and if you can't make the meeting but would like to help with some aspect of the video please let me know. We can use all the help we can get.

This year's certification match and test are in for some big changes. The Board decided that we should hold both events in fields at and near the Lebanon Township Municipal Building. Over the past few years we have been holding these events at Jane Henderson's farm. Jane has very graciously offered her fields again this year; however we feel that events have become so popular that the number of participants put an undue burden on Jane's hospitality. Pat Etchells will be the secretary for both events. We still have a need for tracklayers and food preparers to make these the first-class events they typically are. If you would like to volunteer, please give me a call.

Our annual picnic will be on September 26 at the MacKinnon's farm. Mark your calendars, and plan on coming to a fun day!

Happy tracking.

John Etchells

WHO'S WHO

OFFICERS

President
Vice President
Secretary
Treasurer

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Linda Riley

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COMMITTEES

Tracking Experience Day
Tracking Test Secretary
Newsletter

Linda Riley
Pat Etchells
Pat Etchells



Nova BRAGINTON, EDIE's Weimaraner pup, now has 4 Canadian breed points. And **Andy** has 2 legs on her Canadian UD, with a second and a fourth place.

Also in Canada, **VICKY BROWN's GSD Allie** has two legs on her UD.

BETH ETHELLES was married to Eric Basham last month. They will be heading west in September so that she can study biophysics at Oregon State's grad school.

RONN LOOS has finally improved his frisbee throwing, enabling him to place third at the 1992 Plainfield, NJ Recreation Department's Frisbee Contest in June. (Tidbit submitted by **Luckipenni, UD, CFC** {Collie Frisbee Competitor}).

MEMBERSHIP

The following persons have submitted applications for membership. They will become members 30 days after the mailing of this newsletter unless the secretary Ruby Szczepaniak, 11 West Main Street, High Bridge, NJ 08829 receives any letters of objection within 30 days.

Pat Blake, 70 Harrop Place, Trenton, NJ 08618 (609) 771-9733
 Doberman "Shasta" Pocono Shirm Shasta, CGC
 English Pointer Madge Amber
 Cocker Peek-a-Poo Holly Berry, CGC, CD

Ruth Brader, 1240 Nursery Rd., Green Lane, PA 18054 (215) 536-2429
 Standard Poodle "Duci" Laureate Deuces Wild, UD

Pets and Pesticides - A Dangerous Mixture

by Kathy Curtis, Albany Report, May/June, 1992 via The Hudson Valley Tracker, June/July, 1992

Can your pet read? The message that warns you to keep off the lawn where pesticides have been applied is wasted on your pet - not to mention young children. Veterinarians warn that exposure to commonly applied lawn pesticides affect the central nervous system of any living organism and are especially dangerous to pets. This risk is compounded by the use of flea control products, since many household, lawn and garden pesticides contain the same chemicals found in flea and tick control products. Pet products are formulated differently, but the active ingredients are the same.



Symptoms of toxic reactions in your pet include difficulty with breathing, drooling, vomiting, diarrhea, seizures, convulsions, and in severe situations, coma. The pesticide 2,4-D is frequently used by lawn care companies and is the most serious risk factor in lymphoma in dogs. The product "Hartz Blockade" flea and tick spray was the cause of 471 recorded pet poisoning incidents within the first year of its release on the market. The company still refuses to admit liability, and the product is still being sold. Very little has been done to prevent poisonings or warn pet owners of the dangers of these products.

An alternative approach to toxic flea and tick repellent is to feed brewer's yeast, vitamin B, and garlic tablets. In addition, apply essential oils (such as citronella, pennyroyal, eucalyptus, rosemary) directly to your pet's coat. Instead of flea collars, use essence of lemon peel and cover a strand of rope for a flea collar. Using redwood or cedar chips in your pet's bedding is an effective flea repellent measure. Frequent vacuuming is also a big help. These can be used in conjunction with one another to prevent flea infestation without harmful side effects. The best way to treat any poisoning is to prevent it!

Fleas and Ticks

by Mrs. Alvin W. McGree, Editor, from Union County Kennel Club via NJFDC Summer Newsletter

With our unusual weather this winter and the unseasonably warm temperatures within the past few days, fleas and ticks are starting to make their presence known - at least they are in Hopewell. We have found ticks and a couple of fleas on the dogs within the last two weeks.

This is the time to take action. One of my favorite products contains an insect growth regulator which, according to an article I read, is a synthetic juvenoid hormone. In larval insects, juvenile hormones maintain the larval stage until it is time for adult developmental stages. Use of a synthetic hormone maintains the larval stage and prevents adult development. A correct application can result in up to 99% inhibition of adult flea emergence.

The synthetic hormone is not stable in light and so it cannot be used out of doors, so forget about spraying the yard. You must also remember it is only effective in preventing the larval stage from developing into an adult. You must still take action against the adult flea and tick you find on the dog. I, however, find that using a product of this kind gives me great peace of mind in knowing that we are not hatching fleas and/or ticks in the house.

The World Health Organization has even approved the use of the synthetic hormone in drinking water for the control of mosquitoes, believing the products are not harmful to humans, animals or the environment.

More on Fleas

You may think ultrasonic flea collars or ultrasonic boxes in the house are the answer to the flea problem. It may sound like a good idea, but the "sound" is the very reason it may not be a good thing. The sound that is emitted is enough to bother any dog or cat with good hearing, and no one knows for sure the sound actually repels fleas because no well-controlled studies have been done.

From The Mailbag

The AKC has contacted club presidents regarding the American Veterinary Medical Association's proposed stronger position on ear cropping and has asked for club comments on the matter. Currently AKC has no authority to do anything, as the subject is covered in the breed standards established by the national breed clubs (although none of the standards **require** cropped ears). The AKC has requested comments from clubs (Attn.: Canine Welfare and Legislation) on this matter. Also mentioned in the AVMA's News - but not a subject of the current action - was tail docking.

To Follow the Dog

or

To Follow the Track

reprinted from the Tracking Club of Central Florida's *Cross Tracks*, March, 1992

In early training we harp on students to know exactly where the track is and for the student to stay on the track. Students often lead and guide their dogs to the scent of the track so that the dog learns to associate the scent with the reward at the end of the track.

A problem with this is that trackers often carry over this lesson to the Tracking Test. Judges often see a handler walking the path they think the tracklayer went regardless of where their dog is tracking. The first two flags give the tracker the general direction of the first leg, but very seldom do they 100% pinpoint direction. Too often the handler leads and guides the dog, often to the detriment of the dog and the Test.

When a handler walks the first leg with the dog paralleling it, there is tension on the lead as the handler tries to hold the dog into the track. A "RULES" judge could be justified for failing this dog.

The same applies to the handler who thinks he is following the first leg but who actually drifts off to the left and right. The poor dog tries to stay to the track while the handler tries to pull him off. Whatever happened to "Follow your dog", "Trust your dog?" Do tracking exhibitors actually think the judges - all experienced trackers - don't know what the exhibitor is trying to do? Do they think they are getting away with something?

In Florida, trackers are blessed with judges who judge the dog more than the handler. We often think of the handler as an annoying necessity whom we hope the dog will overcome and lead the handler to the glove in spite of the handler. It is not uncommon for judges to pass a dog and mentally fail the handler.

A good handler will follow his dog. On the first leg of a track, or any leg, it is all right for a dog to parallel it - on fresh tracks, this is quite common. If the dog gets too far off the first leg, the handler should slow down or stop to give the dog a chance to find the track again.

Please, on the first leg of a TD track, please do the best you can to follow your dog. You will know the general direction of the first leg, but nervousness and your concentration on your dog will not allow you to follow the leg precisely. When your dog seems to drift off the track, it may actually be you drifting!

Lawn Chemicals and Canine Health: 2,4-D

or: *Beware the weed-and-feed!*

Howard Ramsdell, Ph.D.

Assistant Professor of Environmental Health, Colorado State University

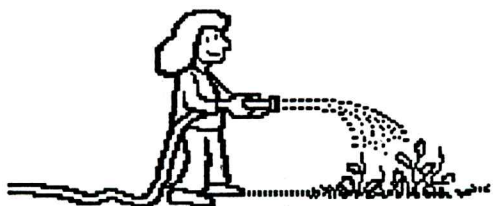
Reprinted from Bernese Mountain Dog Club of Watchung, Inc., via NJFDC Summer 1992 Newsletter

Most homes have lawns and many of our dogs spend a good deal of time on turf in their yards and in parks. Many homeowners and most park managers utilize chemicals to control pests in lawns to help achieve a solid, durable turf without weeds or dead patches due to insect infestations. Unfortunately, using chemicals to create a "perfect" lawn may threaten the health of your dog.

Many of the chemicals used for lawn care have known or suspected adverse health effects. Government approval of pesticides is not a guarantee of complete safety. Because pesticide regulations assume that the chemicals will be used in the prescribed manner, improper usage can greatly increase the health risks posed by these chemicals. Dog owners should give careful consideration to whether the convenience of pesticide use on their lawn is worth the potential risk to their pets' health.

2,4-D and Canine Malignant Lymphoma

One of the most widely used lawn care chemicals is the herbicide commonly referred to as 2,4-D (chemical name: 2,4-Dichlorophenoxyacetic acid, usually formulated as a salt or ester). This agent effectively controls broadleaf weeds, such as dandelions, without harming the grass. 2,4-D is available to the consumer in a variety of forms and is commonly found in so-called "weed-and-feed" fertilizers. Commercial lawn treatment firms also use 2,4-D extensively, usually in a spray form. Many routinely add the herbicide to their liquid fertilizers and apply the mixture to the customer's entire lawn (regardless of whether any weeds are visible).



The extensive use of 2,4-D in agriculture has prompted epidemiology studies of people exposed occupationally. This research has suggested a link between 2,4-D exposure and certain types of cancers in humans. These results prompted a recent study (Journal of the National Cancer Institute, vol. 83, p. 1226, 1991) that demonstrated an association between the use of 2,4-D on lawns and an increased risk of canine malignant lymphoma in dogs. This is one of the more common cancers in dogs and many researchers suspect that environmental agents may be involved in the cause of the disease. The results do not prove that 2,4-D causes canine lymphoma, only that there is a statistical association between estimated exposure to the chemical and relative risk of a dog developing the disease. More research will be necessary to determine the actual extent of exposure of dogs to 2,4-D and to find out if the chemical can actually cause lymphoma. The results of the NCI study should, however, cause prudent dogs owners to reconsider the use of 2,4-D on their lawn.

What can the dog owner do?

Minimize the exposure of your dogs to 2,4-D. They may absorb the chemical by walking on treated turf, eating grass or grooming behavior if the chemical is present on their coat. Granular forms (such as weed-and-feed fertilizer) may stick to the feet, which the dog is likely to lick clean. This could result in a substantial exposure. Keep your dogs off grass that has been recently treated with 2,4-D. If you see little yellow flags (marked "herbicide applied" or "pesticide applied") on somebody's lawn or in the park, you should assume that 2,4-D has been used.

Reduce or eliminate your use of the chemical on your own turf. Having a nice lawn does not necessarily require the use of pesticides. Grass that is properly fertilized, watered and mown will resist invasion by

weeds. Dandelions can be effectively controlled by pulling, especially using a weeding tool that cuts the root below the surface of the soil. Pulling is most effective when done early in the growing season.

Specific steps for reducing exposure if you apply pesticides to your lawn:

- Avoid the use of "weed-and-feed" type fertilizers. If you do, follow application directions carefully. Keep dogs off the lawn for at least 2 days after the fertilizer granules have been completely dissolved by rain or watering.
- If you feel that you must use 2,4-D herbicides, use spot treatments, spraying only the weed-infested areas. Keep dogs off the treated lawn for at least 48 hours.
- If your lawn is treated by a commercial firm, choose one that uses 2,4-D only for spot treatments. Have them notify you in advance of any applications and keep your dogs indoors while they are spraying. Keep dogs off the treated lawn for at least 48 hours.
- Ask your neighbors to let you know in advance if they (or a commercial operator) will be applying pesticides to their lawn so you can keep your dogs indoors during the application.