



LENAPE TRACKING CLUB OF CENTRAL NEW JERSEY

COMMON SCENTS

JANUARY/FEBRUARY, 1996
Vol. 20., No. 1

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

February already. I haven't done much over the winter, but apparently Pat Etchells has been busy. Just heard that Pearl got her UD! Congratulations!

Hope to see everyone at the winter meeting on Feb. 17. I don't know if anything can top last year's flag-making meeting, but Peg is putting together a program about Seeing Eye. We're doing a pot-luck. Please call Barbara Greenfield if you'll be attending and let her know what you'll be bringing.

The awards dinner is Saturday, March 30 at the Holiday Inn in Clinton. See you there!



We need to start gearing up for TED. As always, we need lots of volunteers to make the day a success. We'll be calling!

Anna Burbank

DATES TO REMEMBER

Nominations Meeting/Program

..... Saturday, February 17, 1996

Awards Dinner

..... Saturday, March 30, 1996

TED '96

..... Sunday, April 21, 1996

Certification Workshop

..... Sunday, September 22, 1996

Tracking Test

..... Sunday, November 3, 1996



Holly BKAKE earned her first UKC leg with a 190.5

Cocker **Pearl** ETCHELLS got her second UD leg at American Spaniel Club with a 1st place. She finished her title at her next show, Princeton DTC.

RONN & MAELEINE LOO's Collie **Pennie** earned a UDX leg at Princeton.

HOPE MEAKER's Flattie **Pega** was BOS all three days at the Springfield Cluster in November. Her brother **Rigel** was BOB twice. **Nika** went WB for her second major at just 8 months old.

NOMINATIONS

The Nominating Committee, consisting of Peg Forte, Chair, Barbara Greenfield, and Mollie Heide has proposed the following slate of Officers and Board members for the 1996-1997 year. Additional nominations may be made at the February meeting.

President	Anna Burbank
Vice President	Peg Forte
Secretary	Pat Etchells
Treasurer	John Etchells
Board Members	Barbara Greenfield
	Joanne Mac Kinnon
	Hope Meaker
	Linda Riley
	Dot Vail

President - Anna Burbank * **Vice President** - Peg Forte * **Secretary** - Pat Etchells
Treasurer - Linda Riley * **Board Members** - Pat Blake, John Etchells, Hope Meaker,
Pat Paulding, Dot Vail * **Editor** - Pat Etchells, PO Box 326, Lebanon, NJ 08833. etchells@vcx.net

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GIVING DOGS WATER ON THE TRACK

reprinted from the Tracking Club of Florida's *Cross Tracks*, January, 1994

The tracking rule allowing a person to give a dog water while tracking probably developed from a no win situation that had nothing to do with tracking. As a group, we are all against any kind of animal abuse and failure to give a water when needed can and should be considered animal abuse. I can only imagine the first time a tracking judge was confronted with this problem and had a conversation:

Handler: "I think my dog is in distress and I can't give it water ?!"

Judge: "Well, err, no. Give the dog water."
or

Handler: "Water is a necessity and not a training device. Are you going to forbid me to give my dog a necessity of life?"

Judge: "Ahhhhhhhhhhhhhh no, go ahead."

None of us should ever deny a dog water when it is needed, but how should water be used when tracking and how should it be judged?

When a dog becomes overheated, it is too late for water to be of any help during a Test. While a handler is allowed to stop a dog while tracking to give a dog water, tracking is afield event and part of the test includes a dog's perseverance and stamina. There is no time limit for a track, "so long as a dog is tracking." It therefore can be surmised that a handler may stop a dog to give it water, but when the dog is watered, the dog must continue to track. As we know all too well in Florida, Texas, and Arizona, one or two minutes and rest and water is not enough time to overcome overheating and a dog has to be considered failed - "quit working."

Does giving a dog water while tracking help a dog? To many trackers the answer is no. Once a dog is overheated, no amount of water will help and you should just call it a day. Though most of the olfactory senses are through the nose, some are in the mouth's palate and thus a percentage of a dog's sense of smell is cleansed when the dog is given water.



On a TD track there should be no need for water. A TD track is but a 1/4 mile, and as a field event, a dog that cannot go 1/4 of a mile

without water should not be tracking. As much as we may want everyone to participate in our sport, there have to be some limitations.

The TDX track is a much older track and thus requires more effort on the dog's part to scent it. This takes physical effort of more concentrated inhaling which can take its toll. While physical obstacles can be difficult on many handlers, they are seldom long-term physical challenges to dogs that interfere with a dog and its scenting. Some dogs on a TD track may need rescenting due to the length of track and the heat and other challenges of a track. But when should water be given on a track?

Theoretically, never. Many dogs can do a TDX track in 10 to 20 minutes, and if it can't do a track in that time will fail otherwise 99% of the time. Tracking for 20 minutes should not be a hardship on any dog. If water is to be given to a dog, it should be given before the dog needs it. Water should be given to a dog to prevent overheating and not to overcome it. It is a handler's responsibility to anticipate and prevent problems. **THIS INCLUDES KNOWING WHEN TO GIVE A DOG WATER.** The only way to learn this is through experimentation during training. You'll have to learn how much tracking your dog can handle under various situations and his indications of when he could use some water, when water will help or not, how much works for the dog, if the dog will even take it. Some dogs are so driven to track they don't want to stop and take water. Putting water on a dog's stomach is often all you can do. Maybe you'll have to try and give the dog plenty of water and wet it down before you start. Don't worry about the dog going on the track.

From a distance of 50 yards a judge cannot really tell if a dog is in distress or not. During a Test it is up to the handler to read his dog and determine if a dog can go on or not. Judges can only give the dog so much time to take water. The dog should also be working a track and the giving of water should take but a minute. After that a judge will be pressured to whistle a dog for "quit working."

The timing of when to give a dog water on the track can also be important. You should give the dog water only when you know where the track is, such as after an article when you

know the track is straight ahead and you have an article handy to rescent the dog. Better yet is to rescent the dog with the starting article. Dogs have often found articles on a track left by trackers during previous practice sessions. You sure would hate to rescent your dog with the wrong scent. After a turn when the dog has committed to a direction can also be used.

At most other times stopping a dog can be dangerous. If a dog has overshot a turn and you stop to give it water, it could be hard to get the dog restarted and find the track again. You might also be stopping the dog on a cross track and the dog might restart on the cross track.

As a short term field event, giving a dog water should be unnecessary.

By the time a dog shows it needs water, it is too late for water to be of much use in helping a dog to finish the track

Water cleanses part of the olfactory senses and can cause more harm than good.

Giving a dog water at the wrong time on a track could prevent the dog from finishing the track.

PEPPERMINT SOAP

reprinted CDFA Newsletter via *The Flatirons Press*, Flatirons KC, Littleton, CO
via Des Moines Obedience Training Club's *Waggin' Tales*, 8/95

A capful of liquid peppermint (Castile) soap in a quart of warm water should be kept handy to clean spots when your dog has an accident. Pour the mixture on a sponge, go over the entire spot, then flush the sponge and repeat the process. No rinsing is necessary. This will not only neutralize the ammonia odor and remove the stain but will leave a fresh, natural smell in its place.

Two or three capfuls in a bucket of water cleans linoleum, tile and other no-wax floors. A capful in the final rinse of washing dog blankets cleans and deodorizes them, and helps repel fleas. Bathing your dog in it leaves the coat shiny and smelly nice longer than special dog shampoos. Liquid peppermint soap is sold at most health food stores. (via Pasinta OC "News")

HELPFUL HINTS

extracted from Doberman World *HOTLINE*
Summer and Fall, 1980

- About a tablespoon of reconstituted lemon juice added to a pan of water will prevent diarrhea when traveling out of town.
- When cutting nails, bleeding can be stopped by dipping nail in corn starch in the event QUICK-STOP is not available.
- ADOPLPH'S MEAT TENDERIZER added to water to make a paste will give relief for bee stings.
- CLING FREE dryer sheets will make your car or van smell fresher when installed in your defroster openings.
- For the habitual digger, fill hole nearly full with "doggy do-do" and cover with about an inch of soil.
- To help your dogs keep cool in the summer heat, wet completely an old discarded sheet and lay it on the floor for your dog to lie upon. You can turn on a well-placed fan if more cooling is desired, but be sure you keep an eye on it.
- Lemon juice helps bleach out organic stains such as urine and ground it dirt and doesn't damage the coat like other bleach preparations.
- Try MURPHY'S OIL SOAP as a shampoo for your dogs. {It} leaves a soft and shiny coat, without any oily feeling. And you don't have to worry about excessive shampooing because it puts oil (natural vegetable oil) back into the skin. Also great during shedding.
- Ice cubes in your dogs' water bowl on a hot day will encourage them to drink water, and adds a little amusement for them.
- Baking soda baths can be soothing to your dogs' irritated skin.
- If you're traveling with a bitch in midseason and a male, and you want the male to be quiet in the car and manageable in the ring, put a drop of vanilla extract on his nose. He will look very puzzled, then relax, even right next to the bitch.
- If an object lodges in your dogs' ear, pour in a little olive oil and gently massage the ear until the object floats out. If this doesn't work, see a vet.
- If an insect gets in your dogs' ear, place a flashlight next to the ear and turn it on. The bug will leave quickly, as it is attracted to the light.
- Tar removal - place foot in warm salt water with olive oil added. Remove foot and dry with cloth. Repeat if necessary.

HOW TO DEAL WITH NERVES

by Deb Donelly

reprinted from The Des Moines Obedience Training Club's *Waggin' Tales*, 8/95
via *Front & Finish*, March 1993 via The *Colorado Sheltie*, 1/94

Do you find showing your dog very stressful? Do you find yourself losing sleep, spending a lot of time in the bathroom or unable to eat before you show? You know it's silly to act this way, but you can't seem to stop the nerves. A little bit of nervousness is probably helpful to your performance, but if you feel like you're going to be sick and filled with dread at the thought of going into the ring, you need to do something about it. I often feel the "sick" type nerves before I go into the ring, and it has definitely affected my performance. I decided it was going to be different at the Classic. I finally found a good book, *THE RELAXATION AND STRESS REDUCTION HANDBOOK* by Martha Davis, Ph.D., which really helped me deal with my nerves. I had only two weeks to work on the techniques, so I chose the simpler ones. You do need to spend a short time, about 10 minutes twice a day, when learning the techniques. I found them well worth the effort!

The first technique involves recognizing that certain groups of muscles remain tense when you are nervous, and that you can consciously relax them if you are aware of them. Your body will relax the tenseness in about three minutes if you tell it to. First you need about ten minutes without distractions. Lie on the floor on your back, your legs out straight and your arms relaxed, palms up. Start by making your hands into tight fists for about 10 to 20 seconds. Then relax them and absorb how that feels. Do up to 3 repetitions until you feel relaxed. Next do your upper arms, then neck, face, upper body, lower body, legs and toes. I hold a lot of tension in my neck, and my neck was quite sore after I did this for a few days, but it did help. Do this twice a day for one to two weeks before you will be able to relax with distractions. Another technique is slow, deep breathing. When you are tensing your muscles you will find that in order to tense you will hold your breath. If you are breathing correctly, your abdomen will move a lot and your chest will move very little. Practice this after you do muscle relaxation. I have chronically cold hands and feet, and after practicing breathing correctly they are much warmer. In my head I visualize looking like a whippet when I breathe, and it helps me remember to breathe from my abdomen.

The last technique involves stopping irrational thoughts. Although I know I have nothing to fear in the ring (I mean, what's the worst thing that could happen and could I live through it?), it is fear that fuels my nerves. I know I am a perfectionist and although I truly do not expect my dog to be perfect, I do not like to make mistakes. So when these irrational thoughts start building into nerves, I needed a way to stop them. One suggestion was to set an egg timer or travel alarm for 3 minutes, then start working yourself up. The alarm will startle you when it goes off, and you tell yourself, "stop it!" At first you shout it, then progress to saying it softly, then think it. I couldn't work myself up enough for this to work, but I found the next step quite helpful. You put a rubber band around your wrist and when you start getting the "sick" kind of nerves, you snap the rubber band and say to yourself, "stop it!" This worked really well for me at the Classic, and made the show much more enjoyable for me. There are a lot of other techniques mentioned in the book, and surely something in there should work for most people. So you spend a little time tuning yourself up for the next show - after all, don't you owe it to your dog?

HELP FOR KIDS THAT BITE

By Ruth Tabaka

Reprinted from the Washington State Cocker Club's *Hi Lites*, December, 1994

A tip that works to teach dogs to be quiet also works for kids that bite. First, the method for the dog ... take a plastic lemon (full of lemon juice!), and every time your dog barks or whines, calmly open its mouth and squirt in some lemon juice. After a few doses, most dogs will shut up when they SEE the plastic lemon!

One person who had learned the "lemon treatment" in dog training class took it a step further and used it in her day care. She had one child who kept biting the other children and had become such a problem that she was going to have to tell his mother that she couldn't take care of him anymore. As a last resort, with the mother's permission, she explained the "lemon rule" to the child. It only took two "treatments" to cure the child of his biting problem!