



Common Scents

Lenape Tracking Club of Central New Jersey
January - February 2004 Volume 29 Issue 1

The President's Message...

Well, we are now into a new year and I hope everyone had a wonderful Christmas and happy, healthy New Year.

We are really into winter now. As everyone knows, we had to cancel our TDX test due to the snow storm. We were not alone. For the second year in a row Burlington County Kennel Club had to cancel their TD test. It is fun to track in the snow but the judges do not like to judge tests in the snow because it makes the test "too easy" and they really have to watch handlers for guiding their dogs. I love tracking in the cold weather and so do most of the dogs, so we have been out a lot.

Coming up, in February we have a general meeting for all members, where the nominating committee will present their list of officers and board members for the coming year. It is also the time if anyone wants to make a nomination from the floor to do so. The meeting will be at 11am. Before the meeting, John Etchells will be running a tracklayers certification. This means all the members that have not been officially certified to lay track can now do so. Remember you joined the club to be involved so now is your chance to get involved, get certified and then come out to lay track at our events. We have enough members in this club that no one should have to lay more than one track at any test or certification workshop. I would be great to see some new faces. So start this year out with a bang and get involved. In March, we have our annual election meeting, luncheon and awards. All members who earned a tracking title in 2003 will be given a beautiful plaque made up by Peg Forte. So plan to come out and help the folks that earned these plaques celebrate.

Happy tracks,

Bev Olsen



February 21, 2004 - Lenape General Membership Meeting **and** Track Layers Certification Workshop

March 28, 2004 - General Meeting, Awards Presentation and Speaker

April 17, 2004 - Tracking Experience Day

Sept. 26, 2004 - Certification Workshop

October 31, 2004 - Tracking Dog Test

Nov. 6 or 13, 2004 - Possible TDX Trial

Points of Interest...

Intro to Tracking...Tracking: The Sport of Mysterious Variables

A tracking seminar in February, is she nuts? Well maybe, but not about this. Tracking is one of the most difficult sports to train for properly. There is a lot more to it than just walking through a field and then hanging on to the end of the lead as the low TD pass rate attests. We'll talk about how weather, terrain, age, cover effect tracking conditions, some of the most common TD training mistakes / problems and how to avoid/fix them, leash handling and how to know if you are ready for the spring tests, which are - BTW - just around the corner. We promise you two things: You won't be bored and you will come away with real tools to use to increase your odds of success.

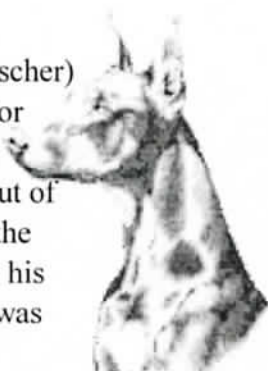
Instruction by Sarah Wilson For More Information: swilson413@aol.com
10 participants, \$45 February 22, 1:00 - 4:00 PM Hudson Valley, New York

Intro to Tracking Clinic with Celeste Kelly

April 3 & 4, 2004 -FMI: Australian Shepherd Club of New England,
<http://www.unix.oit.umass.edu/~ascne/> - Look for when their 2004 schedule is posted.

Braggs and Tidbits

Eve Nelson-Berry...Harvey aka "Harvard N Yale" (Doberman Pinscher) is now a certified therapy dog!! For those of you who don't know his background, a friend pulled him out of the Burlington shelter curtesy of the BCAA. We found out later I was his fourth home, in 22 months. This was over three years ago.



Every weekend you are out doing something with your dog...tell us about it, send us a photo.



Bev Olsen...Rain, 2 year old Cardigan, earned his first Standard Novice agility leg at the 11/03 JAG trail.

Kathy Gaynor...**Vandy's K Out of the Blue (Keeshond) finished he ASCA Novice Obedience title with a 193.5. She now has her AKC, UKC and ASCA novice obedience titles.

**Westwind's Four on the Floor (Chow) has earned her CD title!!!

**New addition to the group as of 11/02 is Ch Robmoor Imagine Blue Star's Desi (Chow). He finished his championship at 13 months old...BOB at Hunterdon Hills Kennel Club, BOB Non Sporting Group of the Garden State, BOW and a 4 point major at the Greater New York Chow Chow Club, BOW and a 3 point major at South Jersey Kennel Club.



Braggs and Tidbits continued

Lisa Pattison... Lacey, Australian Shepherd, Propwashelordan Wildchild has earned an AKC CDX leg at the Princeton Dog Training Club trial.



Lenape's New Members...Welcome



Claire Gelok
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Rhodesian Ridgebacks

Aggressive Dogs: Fact or Fiction

Are the following statements TRUE or FALSE ?

- ** All dogs may bite.
- ** Dog bites can largely be prevented by proper training and management.
- ** Dog bite fatalities are relatively uncommon.
- ** People are more dangerous than dogs.
- ** Chronically irresponsible dog owners are to blame for many problems.
- ** Often the owners rather than the dogs are the real problem.
- ** Each year 4.7 million people are bitten by dogs. There are 50 million dogs in the US.
- ** Children are three times more likely to be bitten than adults.
- ** Male dogs are six times more likely to bite than female dogs.
- ** Sexually intact dogs are 2.6 times more likely to bite than neutered dogs.
- ** Rottweiler and Pit Bull breeds account for 67 percent of deaths involving dogs.
- ** The breed of dog involved in the deadly San Francisco attack, the Pres Canario, was banned repeatedly from the island where it originated, the Canary Islands.



This information appeared in an article by Dr. Nicholas Dodman on www.petplace.com entitled "Aggressive Dogs: Fact and Fiction."
All of the items above are TRUE.

Mixed breeds and not pure bred dogs are the type of dog most often involved in inflicting bites to people. The pure-bred dogs most often involved are German shepherds and Chow chows.

The list of breeds most involved in both bite injuries and fatalities changes from year to year and from one area of the country to another, depending on the popularity of the breed.

Dog attacks account for one-third of all liability claims on homeowners' insurance policies. According to the Western Insurance Information Service, the insurance industry paid out more than \$1 billion in dog-bite claims in 1998 alone.

There are approximately 4.5 million reported dog bites annually in the United States (nearly 2% of the American population). The majority of dog bites are never reported to local authorities.

<http://www.dogexpert.comHomePage/DogBiteStatistics.html>

Snow Tracking

by Craig Green Tally-Ho: March/April/May 1995

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I welcome my wife Kay as the co-author of this article, since she and I have had a lot of experience tracking in the snow. Some of you know Kay as Tally Ho's obedience columnist from 1982 to 1986.

Living in Colorado, we occasionally have tracking tests with snow. This has become a controversial subject, since under certain conditions snow can make tracking easier for both dog and handler. Criticism has been levied against those who get titles while tracking in the snow, and it has been suggested that judges refuse to award a title under these conditions. This article briefly explores this controversy.

We'll begin with some observations based on our experiences as trainers and exhibitors. Then, I will make a few comments about judging in the snow.

Snow, Like Rain, is Not Always Easy

It's important to realize that snow doesn't always make tracking easier. For example, in TDX, crosstracks are much more enticing in the snow. We had a dog fail a snowy TDX because of his obsession with the crosstracks. He had been previously well-trained and proofed on crosstracks without snow.

Tracking can be very difficult when snow has filled in the track or when the snow is melting. Especially in TDX, where there are at least three hours between laying and running the track, filling in can be tough. When I (Craig) was training a Rottweiler bitch to track a couple of years ago, she and all other dogs (except one) flunked a TDX one day. The tracks were completely filled in, and only a small terrier, who physically couldn't get his nose away from the scent, passed.

I (Kay) once had a training track fill in with snow after the track was laid. When we started the track, the dog did not indicate any scent whatsoever. I walked the track with him to find the buried article, but he did not indicate it.

When snow is melting, like the evaporation of morning dew, we have consistently noticed dogs having a tough time picking up the scent. When increasing the age for a new TDX dog, at some point in our dry climate, the dog usually "hits the wall." He just can't seem to find the scent. He crosses the track and doesn't even indicate it. This is exactly the behavior we see when a snow track is melting.

I (Craig) recently judged a snow-filled TDX test in which the first dog passed easily. The second took the crosstracks, and the last two dogs couldn't get past the first turn after the snow had melted. They literally couldn't understand tracking after melted snow.

First Snow of the Season

Occasionally in the fall, we track a dog without snow, getting ready for a test, and all of a sudden it snows on the day of the test. If conditions are right, it does make tracking easier for most dogs. However, we have had more than one young hound lose concentration and want to play instead of track.

Although we almost never track a dog within a few days of a local test, we might do so if it snows the day before the test. If he hasn't seen snow before, we have done this at the last minute. Results were mixed.

Snow Tracking

by Craig Green...continued

In our semi-arid climate, there is an extreme difference between snow and no snow. I (Kay) have laid practice TDX tracks for my friends on dry ground before it snowed heavily during aging. This has usually caused the dogs to indicate nothing on the track. Conditions running the track were so different than when it was laid, the dogs literally didn't know what to do.

The two dogs I (Kay) ran in TDX tests in the snow failed. Neither had ever seen snow (one couldn't track after the snow had melted and the track was "gone"). After this, I trained the second TDX dog in the snow with multiple crosstracks and buried articles. We did this until he would not take the crosstrack in the snow and would dig up the articles. Both dogs eventually passed dry TDX tracks, with superb performances.

I (Craig) passed a TDX with a track partially covered with snow. The dog tracked well on the snow, but had a very difficult time working out several turns on which the snow had melted.

Judging the Snow Tracking Test

Judging in the snow can be easy or difficult. If it is snowing the day before the test, when tracks are plotted, the judges can generally compensate for the snow by making the tracks longer and more difficult than usual. However, if it snows the day of the test, and doesn't fill in the tracks after they are laid or doesn't melt during the test, two things are often done.

First, the tracks can be aged longer than normal if snow conditions make tracking easier. Second, the judges can be very strict on guiding the dog. This means not letting handlers restrain the dog. If the dog benefits from the snow, then the handler should be penalized for any help during the tracking test. Some judges have instructed handlers to face and follow the dog no matter where he goes. This tends to minimize any undeserved help from the handler.

Conclusion

We've found that all dogs are different, and snow tracking is different in different climates. Dogs trained in arid climates may have as much trouble with wet conditions (snow or wet grass) as dogs from wet climates tracking in our semi-arid Colorado. I (Craig) once saw a bloodhound from Arizona flunk a snow-filled TD test that everyone else passed.

In general, snow tracking appears to result in a higher pass rate. However, as our experience shows, this is not always the case. If you anticipate the possibility of finding snow at a tracking test, we suggest you train for it first. If not, you'd better hope you have a dog that can adjust to new conditions without previous experience. As far as we're concerned, snow is just another condition, and shouldn't be treated differently.



Lenape Tracking Club Central New Jersey

Officers:

President: Bev Olsen 732-772-0886
Vice President: Alice Crans 908-537-2574
Secretary: Mimi Ruch 908-722-9723
Treasurer: John Etchells 908-236-2423

Board:

Peg Forte 908-832-7231 Lisa Pattison 908-850-8879
Peter Heide 609-466-4160 Laurie Shuren 908-786-5391
Teryl Lebkuecher 732-493-4919
Immediate Past President:
Barbara Greenfield 973-696-8787

Member Profile... Lisa Pattison

I was 30 years old when I brought my first dog home and it was shortly after buying our first house. I wanted a companion for work. Murphy was an Australian shepherd who we adored so much we found Shelby 8 months later and a year after that Lacey. I found my breed right off the bat. The breed was beautiful busy and brainy so soon I was immersed in dog sports and changing my job in order to compete on weekends. Shaping behavior in these guys is pretty much the hobby that consumes my life. In the past nine years I feel like I have gleaned a doctorate's worth of knowledge through pure immersion into behavior and health. The dogs have benefited from raw feeding, homeopathy, holistic medicine, water dog work, carting, drafting, skijoring, obedience, herding (ducks and sheep), Frisbee, backpacking, therapy dog work, rally obedience, canine freestyle, agility, and tracking. Through "positive only" training methods I am assured my dogs look forward to whatever is next. I truly enjoy the canine psyche and so I shape Murphy, Shelby and Lacey in all things regardless of their competitive abilities. It is guaranteed to bring a smile to the obedience crowd to see Lisa coming with "Big S" (Shelby) in tow in addition to Murphy and Lacey.

Tracking, I believe, was the second organized dog activity we fell into. Lenape's Tracking Experience Day was close to the house and with two puppies at the time we jumped right in. Murphy and Shelby learned to track with food drops and eventually with the help of probably 100 blind tracks courtesy of Laurie Shuren we earned a tracking title. Clearly the hold up was the handler. Murphy certified 3 times before Lisa could pass the test. Lacey was taught in the Trade Zone Hotel parking lot with scent in a bottle. She understood the concept from day three and I never had to proof turns, distance or weather. Her issue always was the gallery. We dealt with that by letting her go on a really long line during the test and she ran with it. Literally! Lacey was the first Australian shepherd to earn a TD at the AKC Nationals! I am a firm believer in training tracking on a 6-foot line and 6 tracks before test I gradually let them out on long line. Murphy and Lacey are training for TDX. We are still trying to help Shelby remember what she IS tracking.

I love shaping behavior and because behaviors are being offered around the clock there is no training regiment at our house. Bits and pieces of desired performance are offered out of context and spontaneously rewarded. I am truly fulfilled when it clicks into a long behavior chain when called upon.

What I love about titling is the opportunity to perfect my communication with the dog. When the dog understands the behavior I am connecting with him. The requirements to fulfill a title or test continually "raise the bar" on my shaping abilities. In the end I want to help my little furry friends learn worry-free and to spend as much time with them as possible. If we earn the title great but no matter what we have enjoyed each other in the process.



Home Page:

<http://home.att.net/~countryclipper>

Favorite Books:

"Culture Clash" by Jean Donaldson

"Purely Positive Training Companion to Competition" by Sheila Booth

"Clicker Training For Obedience" by Morgan Spector

"The Complete Idiot's Guide to Positive Dog Training" by Pamela Dennison (my dogs grace the cover on this one!)

Member Profile... Lisa Pattison continued...

One of my favorite quotes from Sheila Booth is: "Our dogs deserve the best we can give them. In our efforts to train them, we must always respect their individuality and nurture their spirit. Only when we recognize the magnificence of that spirit can we begin to appreciate their worth. We must affirm that worth. Our steps toward competition training must never compromise that spirit-not for a ribbon, not for a trophy, not even for a title."

****Pattison's Murphy AKC:** VCD1-(TD,CD,NA,NAJ) HT, TDI, AX, ASCA: CDX, RS-O, GS-O, JS-N, JVO NADAC: OAC, OGC, OJC, OJC-V

****Eloradanan Propwash Shelby AKC:** HT, NA, NAJ,CGC,TDIA, ASCA: CD, GS-N, JS-N NADAC: NGC, NJC

****Propwasheloran Wildchild AKC:** VCD1-(TD,CD,NA,NAJ) HSAs TDI, CGC, ASCA: STDds, CDX, RS-N, GS-N, JS-N NADAC: NAC, NJC, NGC

Medical Info...from Magnolia Animal Hospital

New Kaopectate® may be Harmful to your Pets

Kaopectate®, the diarrhea medication for humans, is also effectively used for cats and dogs. However, Kaopectate's® new formulation contains bismuth subsalicylate, an aspirin derivative that may be harmful to some dogs and deadly to cats. Kaopectate® is sometimes given several times a day for 3 days for symptomatic treatment in cats. If given at the same dose, the amount of aspirin equivalent in the extra-strength Kaopectate® is toxic to some cats.

This new Kaopectate® caplet is scheduled to be shipped no later than April 2004, but the liquid version is already on the retail shelves. The "old" Kaopectate®, containing attapulgite, may still be available for a while. Exercise caution and check the label and/or look for generic formulas containing the attapulgite or kaolin pectin.

Keep in mind that the human "over-the-counter" drugs are exactly that --- for humans. Formulation changes may be beneficial to humans but dangerous to pets. Consult your family veterinarian before giving your pets any non-prescription drugs.



Tracklayer Certification ***Saturday February 21st 9:00 am***

John Etchells will be conducting a Tracklayers Certification on Saturday, 2/21/04, 9 am at the Lebanon Twp. Munciple Building. The Lenape members are being asked to participate in one of the tracking trials held each year. Being certified and laying track for a test is one way you can support your club. This workshop promises to be a FUN learning experience. The club meeting will be held after the workshop. Please call John at 908-236-2423 and let him know you are coming!!!

John would also like to thank all of the members who volunteered to lay track and cross tracks for the TDX trial. Unfortunately, the trial was cancelled, but we are in the process of planning another TDX trial to be held in November 2004.