

Blues News

BLUE RIDGE
DOG TRAINING
CLUB, INC.



Established 1967

February 2012

2012 Awards Dinner



What's inside

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Theresa Manchey accepting awards for Nemo, Satchmo, Issie Pitcher.

"I think dogs are the most amazing creatures; they give unconditional love. For me they are the role model for being alive." - Gilda Radner











PUPPIES AND WHAT THEY LEARN FROM YOUR OLDER DOG:

I thought it would be a good idea to talk about puppies again this year. One of the first things you will notice when you get your new puppy is that your older dog is a GENIUS! He knows all kinds of stuff! It's amazing! This led me to think; don't you ever wonder what they say to one another, the puppies and the experienced dogs? What they learn from one another? So I came up with the following possible conversation:

Said the young dog to the old dog: I'm faster than you, I'm smarter than you, and I'd like to have that bone you have!

Said the old dog to the young dog: gurr....my bone. Now listen here young'un, you have a lot to learn! I have many years of experience in agility, obedience, and other sports and in handling our humans!

Said the young dog to the old dog: I heard that agility courses used to be so much simpler, and they didn't even have weave poles in standard!

Said the old dog to the young dog: HAH! Our courses were hard enough, and there was none of this namby-pamby indoors air-conditioned/heated soccer area/artificial turf stuff! We were outdoors, in rain and mud and snow & sleet! Rocks, tree roots, holes, bees, deer poop (mmm...deer poop....where was I?) We were tough!

Said the young dog to the old dog: Really? Well, I am doing really well. I already have two legs in Novice agility and two legs towards my Novice obedience title!

Said the old dog to the young dog: Are you crazy? You need to slow it down! Don't you realize it won't mean anything to the humans if you make it too easy! You've got to throw in some NQ's somewhere or they won't value it! Why, I took so long to finish some titles that they actually cried when we finally got that last leg! Now that's working the angle.

Said the young dog to the old dog: But I know how to do the exercises!

Said the old dog to the young dog: I know it, you know it, but they don't have to know that! For cryin' our loud, try to preserve some of the mystery!

And here's another thing: Probably at some point, you will qualify for something big—maybe a national show of some kind. This is the perfect chance to create memories for them! What you do is wait until you are sure they have written checks, gotten non-refundable airline tickets, and the closing date is past. Then, just out of the blue, you start limping, or squinting, or possibly both. You'll see some attending then! Now, you don't want to take it too far- for instance, try not to get yourself into a cone, or crate rest. I would try to time your miraculous recovery for after you are at the vet's office and they have paid, but before the event you are suppose to compete in.

Just think how much it will mean to them when you are healthy and sound and they actually get to run you in the event! At that point a dropped bar or a crooked front won't be a big deal at all. And if you actually get a clean run—well! You'll see some tears then, for sure. I'm telling you, its pure gold.

Said the young dog to the old dog: Oh, okay—I see! I'll remember that. But you should see me do tricks! I get all kinds of treats.

Said the old dog to the young dog: Big deal-you still have to work hard for every treat. I get treats for just sitting around and looking handsome! That's some of the perks you have to have seniority for. But listen...you whippersnapper...and this is really important: your biggest responsibility is to just love these people. You can never stop, from day one and until forever—you must love them every minute, with all your heart & soul!—it is your hob and your destiny—never forget it! As long as there is breath in your body and light in your eyes, love your people—they need it badly. And one more thing...

Said the young dog to the old dog: Yes, sir?

Said the old dog to the young dog: That's my bone. No goon so I can take a power nap! So—remember, this year; enjoy your baby dogs and their antics...but listen to the wisdom of your older dogs too! They really are amazing.

Amy Grimm





2011 Awards Listing

Beth Anderson

MAESSE's Golly Miss Molly "Molly"
UKC UAG-II, URO2, ADPT ARCH, CPE CL-1R, CL-1-H, CDSP CD-C
AHGRR's Harley and Me "Harley"
AKC CGC, TDI

Anita Belt

3 Oaks Long Story Short "Rebel"
AKC THD
CH. 3 Oaks Run That By Me One More Time "Johnny"
AKC Champion
Peaches
2010 AKC STAR PUPPY

Margaret Bissell

CH. Keepsake Giving Me Chills "Icely"
2010 AKC OTCH, 2010 AKC UDX2, UDX3, OM1, OM2, OM3, OM4, AKC UDX4, UDX5, OM5, OM6, OM7, 2011 National Obedience Invitational, Keeshond Club o America Awards : Top Ranking Keeshond in Obedience, Top Ranking Champion Keeshond in Obedience
CH. Keepsake Ice on Fire "Frosty"
AKC UD, AKC MX, MXJ, OF
CH. Keepsake Lite My Fire "Sparks"
AKC CD, CDX, OF, Eukanuba National Championship Confirmation

Vickie Bruce

"Smoky"
AKC OAJ, EAJ, NF, OA, USDAA ASA

Kathy Brunner

Winmar Jolly Time Dan "Timer"
AKC RA
Winmar Everything Hunkydory "Dory"
AKC AXP, AXJ
Ch. Camerons "Meet Joe Black" "Joey"
AKC RN

Jan Burgan

Hayfield Grand Tribute to Bayberry V Bera "Berry"
AKC Champion, AHBA HCT
Brooknoll Sawyer of Beowulf "Sawyer"
AKC AXP, OAP
Hayfield Grand Brooknoll "Brooks"

AKC RAE

Hal & Cindy Daly
Travis of Sleepy Creek "Travis"
AKC CGC, RN
Cindy's Sweet Sadie-Girl "Sadie"
AKC STAR PUPPY

Mary DeMott

"Ryder"
AKC STAR PUPPY, Dock dogs International Speed Retrieve - Turbo
"Chelsea"
AKC THD, TDI AOV

John & Stacy Defilippi

Little Miss Oreo of Virginia "Oreo"
AKC MACH, NADAC TN-E, TG-E, HP-N, AKC XF
Roundmeadow Mason-Dixon "Dixie"
NADAC TN-E, TG-N, HP-N
Chillbrook Espresso "Mocha"
AKC NAJ, NADAC TN-N

Amy Grimm

Bonnie's Dutch Panda "Dutch"
APDT RLVX2
Hearts Desire's Mask of Zorro "Zorro"
APDT RL1X4, RL2X4, RL3X3
Xena Warrior Princess "Xena"
AKC MXP, MXP2, MJP, MJP2, APDT ARCHEX, RL3X, RL1X2, RL2X3, RL3X2, USDAA PS1, PK1, PJ1

Ann Gugal

"Gracie"
AKC CGC, TDI
"Kona"
AKC CGC

Cheryl Harrison

Wynmoor Winds of Change
APDT RL2

Debbie Kay

Chillbrook High Hope "Hope"
UKC Grand Champion, SHR, RO2
Chillbrook Endora
UKC Champion, RO1
Chillbrook Galliard "Gillie"
UKC Champion, SHR
Patrice Leipham

**Drydock's Scarab of Silverhill**

AKC CD, TD

Theresa Manthey**"Cowboy"**

AKC CGC, TDI

"Abby"

AKC HD, RN

Janet Moore**"Ceasar"**

AKC RN

Janice Morton**Sagehill Turn the Page "Kindle"**

AKC HT, NA, NAJ, OA, OAJ, CGC

"Dicey"

AKC - MACH3, DPCA Top 20 Finalist, Nat'l Agility Championship Qualifier, Agility Invitational USDAA - Relay Champion, Gamble Master

Carol Nansel**Fast-trak Miz Kenzie of Woodstock "Kenzie"**

AKC RA, AXJ, MX, Dock Dogs International MJ-R

GRREAT Joey of Woodstock "Joey"

AKC MXJ, XF, Dock Dogs International JJ-R

Joy Pitcher**"Satchmo"**

AKC RN, APDT RL1, Dock Dogs International MJ-R, MJ-N

"Nemo"

APDT RLVX

Donna Richardson**Setr ridge Mirror Image "Raine"**

Retired

Setr Ridge's Poems and Prayers "Sonnet"

2010 UKC Agility All Stars, AKC AXJ, OF, MX, OJP, OAP, RE, UKC GRACH, 2011 AKC Agility Invitational

Gail Robbins**Donlyn's Mountain Laurel Gail "Laurel"**

AKC OAP, RA, UKC UCH, APDT RL1X2, RLVX2, RLVX3, RL3X, ARCHX, RL1X3NADAC O-NJC, O-TN-N, WV-N

Cherish Hills Gail's Brogan "Brogan"

AKC OAJ, RA, APDT RL1X2, RL3X, RL2X2, APDT ARCHX, NADAC NJE

Clantyre Blu SkyeG ail's Limit "Skye"

APDT RLP, AOE-P, RLPX, RLI, AOE-L1, UKC UCH, DMWYD ETD

Alice Seabright**"Leo"**

AKC THD

Donna Smith**Galen of Farhill "Galen"**

AKC NAJP

PrideNJoy's Mighty Like A Rose "Brodie"

UKC AG-1

Ed & Nancy Strawsnyder**"Spud"**

2008 AKC CGC, TDI, UKC UGRACHII, UGRACH III, CPE CL1-R, CL1-F

"Bentley"

UKC AG-II, CPE CL1-F, CL1-H

"Annie"

UKC AG-I, CPE CL1-H, CL1-R

Bob Tatara**"Molly"**

AKC NA, NAJ, UKC UA2, CPE CL2

Donna Thompson**PrideNJoy's Romancing the Stone "Gem"**

AKC RA, RE, AKC ROA, OAJ, AX, AXJ

Thrill of All time "Thrill"

AKC NAP

"Sweets"

AKC JH, RA

Megan Westenmeyer**"Dudley"**

AKC AX, OJ, AXJ

Suddanly Irish Draught "Kenzie"

GSMDC Draft Dog, AKC OJP, AJP, NAP, OAP, AHBA HCT

Bobby Lutz**Ashley -****GCH, UGRCH, UAGII, UR03, UCD, Timbreblue Windrydr Biker Girl, CD, RE, MC, FCH, NA, NAJ, NAP, NJP, CGC, TT, CAV**

AKC = Bronze level for Grand CH. - 10 Dec.'11

AKC = Grand Champion - 7 July '11

AKC = RE (Rally Excellent) - 12 June '11

AKC = MC (Master Courser) - 18 Sept.'11

UKC = R03 (3rd level Rally) - 5 June '11

AWC = CAV (Amer. Whippet Cl. Ch. Award of Versatility) - Apr. 11

Tyler -**CH, UGRCH, UAGII, RO1, Windryder's Full Throttle, FCh, SC,**

RN, BN, NA, NAJ, NAP, OJP, CGC, TT

AKC = Champion - 13 Aug. '11

AKC = BN (Beginning Novice) - 9 Oct.'11



AKC = OJP (Open Jumper Preferred) – 12 Mar.'11

AKC = NAP (Nov. Agility Preferred) – 13 Mar.'11

UKC = UAGII (2nd level agility) – 20 Mar.'11

Travis –

**BIF, UGRCH, UR03, UAGII, UCD, Windryder's Ameri-
cade Cruiser, FCH, MC,**

RE, NA, OAJ, NAP, OJP, CGC, TT, AV

AKC = OJP (Open Jumper Preferred) – 23 Oct.'11

AKC = RE (Rally Excellent) – 8 Oct.'11

UKC = R03 (3rd level Rally) – 3 Dec.'11

AWC = AV (Amer. Whippet Cl. Award of Versatility) –
Apr.'11

Nikki –

**BIE, UGRCH, UACH, UR03, UCD, TnT's La-
Femme Nikita, CD, MC, RE, AX,**

AXJ, NAP, NJP, LCM, V-FCH, CGC, TT, AV

AKC = RE (Rally Excellent) – 8 Oct.'11

Shannon –

**MBIF, FC, UCH, UACH, UR03, UCD, Fermanagh
WGASA Why Not, MC, RA,**

BN, OA, OAJ, OAP, OJP, LCM2, V-FCH, CGC, TT, AV

AKC = BN ((Beginning Novice) – 9 Oct.'11

AWC = AV (Amer. Whippet Cl. Award of Versatility) –
Apr.'11

Nigel –

**UALCH, UR03, Highway Run Satori of Xzora, FCH, SC,
RA, BN, CGC, TT**

AKC = BN (Beginning Novice) – 9 Oct.'11

AKC = RA (Rally Excellent) – 12 June '11

UKC = R03 (3rd level Rally) – 4 June'11

They are in need of the Following items:

Brooms & Dust Pans
Plain non-clumping cat litter
Window cleaner
Liquid dish soap
Liquid hand soap
Paper towels
Ink Pens
Multipurpose copy paper
Latex gloves
Canned dog & cat food
Dry puppy & kitten food
Cheap disposable cat toys
Kong dog toys
Clorox bleach
Post it notes
General office supplies (staples, paper
clips)
Large industrial
trash bags



Mutt Muffins

- 1 small jar of baby applesauce/or equivalent in *regular* applesauce
- 2 carrots
- 2 Tbsp honey
- 2 ¾ cup water
- ¼ tsp vanilla
- 1 egg

Shred the carrots with hand shredder or food processor. In a bowl, mix all wet ingredients together and add the applesauce. Mix thoroughly.

- 4 cups whole wheat flour
- 1 Tbsp baking powder
- 1 Tbsp nutmeg/pumpkin pie spice

Combine dry ingredients.

Add wet ingredients to dry and mix thoroughly, scraping the sides and bottom of the bowl to be sure none of the dry mixture is left. Grease a muffin tin with non-stick spray. (Paper liners stick to the muffins so just use a greased muffin tin) Using an ice cream scoop, fill each cup ¾ full. Bake at 350° for approximately 1 hour. Makes about 2 dozen Mutt Muffins. Enjoy!





Older Dog

An older, tired-looking dog wandered into my yard. I could tell from his collar and well fed belly that he had a home and was well taken care of.

He calmly came over to me, I gave him a few pats on his head; he then followed me into my house, slowly walked down the hall, curled up in the corner and fell asleep.

An hour later, he went to the door, and I let him out.

The next day he was back, greeted me in my yard, walked inside and resumed his spot in the hall and again slept for about an hour.

This continued off and on for several weeks...

Curious I pinned a note to his collar: 'I would like to find out who the owner of this wonderful, sweet dog is and ask if you are aware that almost every afternoon your dog comes to my house for a nap.'

The next day he arrived for his nap, with a different note pinned to his collar:

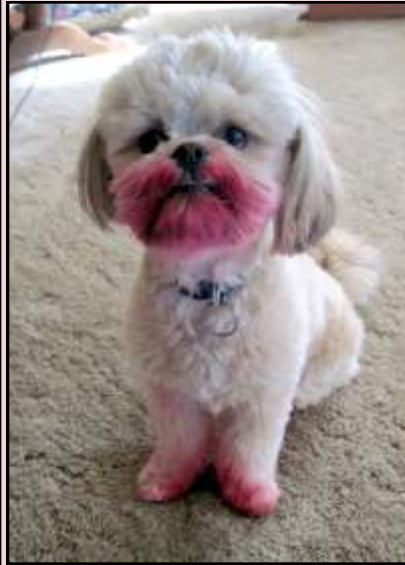
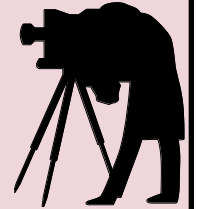
'He lives in a home with 6 children, 2 under the age of 3 - he's trying to catch up on his sleep.

Can I come with him tomorrow?'

Smile



Picture Of the Month



NO, I HAVEN'T SEEN YOUR LIPSTICK!

Why would you even ask me that?

**I am so insulted!
Every time something goes missing around here, everybody looks at me!**



"The one absolutely unselfish friend that man can have in this selfish world, the one that never deserts him, the one that never proves ungrateful or treacherous, is his dog. . . .He will kiss the hand that has no food to offer; he will lick the wounds and sores that come in encounter with the roughness of the world. . . .When all other friends desert, he remains." - George G Vest

"Doggie Horoscope"

Aquarius

January 21 to February 19
Keeping your Aquarius dog happy is a challenge. He is for sure not humdrum or average. None of your neighbor dogs exhibits such individuality.

Pisces

February 20 to March 20
Pisces dogs are quiet, gentle, and intuitive

*Birthdays & Anniversary's
March*

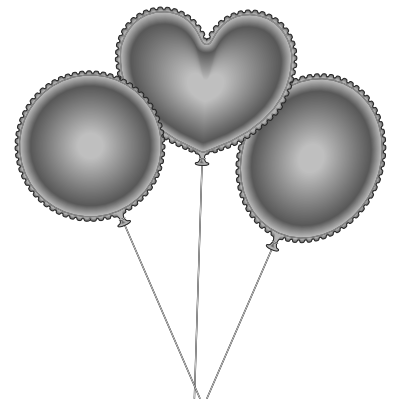
Birthdays

Anniversary's

Anne Legge 3/5

Jan Winstead 3/13

Patrice Leipham 3/13





Mark Your Calendar



Frederick Co. Animal Shelter

The shelter has set a date for Sept. 8, rain date the 5th. Wanted to check in with the club, their availability/interest. We are changing it up a little this year, as where it will still be called Patriotic Paws Day, or "PP" for short. We are planning to have only BRDTC out for the day, no other demos like in the past customs, ATF etc. Are hopes are to keep most the activity to the front and side of the shelter.

Highlights will include a 3 K dog walk, WINC spin wheel, broadcasting, a silent auction. Girl scout lunch, another food vendor to sell funnel cakes, cotton candy and to provide a moon bounce for the kids. Have to get boss's okay on the latter yet. So, would like BR to spend the day - demo's, training tips, promote classes and assist with adoptions. Becky can educate and highlight Pit Bulls, etc. Please pass it on, let us know if it works on your end, we will keep in touch!

Thanks,
Kathy



Paws for Reading 2012 Schedule



February 25
March 10 & 24
April 7
July 14 & 28
October 6 & 20
November 3 & 17
Bowman Library
1:00 pm to 2:15 pm

Handley Library
Mondays:
February 27
March 26
April 30
May 21
At 4:30 pm



Future Dates to Remember

Westminster Canterbury May 10th

This is the clubs big therapy program so start thinking about what you want to train your dogs to do.

Canine Carnival at the Frederick County Animal Shelter. May 12th.

Rabies Clinic at the Frederick County Animal Shelter. May 19th.



President's Corner

Just wanted to write a quick e-mail and give the club an update on how we are doing since we have started with the new training center. As most are well aware, we have held the New Year's Day combined agility/rally run-thru, several additional agility and rally run-thrus, and have just started a current session of very well attended classes throughout the week. Also, we have seen an increase in private room rentals and will be working on hosting some seminars in the hopefully near future. I know that the vote to explore and eventually enter into the lease with the Sportsplex was a very big step for the club...and very costly. We had the idea of a monthly rent to consider plus the large expense of the turf that we put down. Well, I have just received some of the preliminary income amounts for the above stated events and it appears that we as a club have done quite well. The New Year's day run-thru brought in over \$950. The additional run thrus after New Year's Day also brought in over \$886. This amount is minus \$186 we had to pay for the repair of one of the locks so the total was well in excess of \$1000. Also, class registrations for this session brought in \$11,200. This amount is quite astounding as our previous highest amount was only around \$8000. I think that a thanks need to go out to every member of the BRDTC for making this room a reality. I especially want to thank all of those who provided support whether it be by helping to prep the room, buying some sort of goods or supplies, providing a monetary donation, or just attending and/or helping with one of the run-thrus, classes, or events. As I said, this is a marathon, not a sprint. As such, the continued success of the training center will require the support of each and every member so please continue to provide support to our events as you are able.

John Defilippi

In several of my previous emails, I had mentioned that BRDTC is continuing to grow and expand with what we offer. Obviously we have the new training center and our classes are having wonderful attendance. We have actually had to add new classes including a daytime obedience class. We continue to have run thrus to help folks prepare to enter shows or just have fun running their dogs in a semi-formal atmosphere.

Well, now we have grown again. It is official that we will be adding a third agility trial for this year. It will be held on December 1-2 this year. Dan Faulkner will be our judge. Since it was short notice, we are doing a single judge this year and will be limited to 330 runs per day compared to the 440 we normally have. However, next year we will be growing to the two judges hopefully. This is another change to have our members compete on "home turf" and bring more income to the club. See you all at the upcoming events and classes.

John Defilippi

As the number of private rentals has continued to increase, just a quick reminder to anyone who rents the space to please remember to return the space to the condition that it was in when you got there. You are welcome to use any of the equipment that you wish on whatever day you wish, but it is imperative that the original set-up is returned due to the number of classes that we have and the large enrollments. This saves the instructor time for set-up and thus allows for more working time for the students.

Thanks,
John

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See you all at the upcoming events and classes.
John Defilippi



"WAGS & BRAGS"



Today was Frosty's Day!!! We were at the Sheltie club trial in Beltsville MD. His heeling was THE MOST INCREDIBLE heeling I have ever had with a dog! WOW!!! When we finished with the Signal exercise in utility, I was so amazed that I said out loud "Oh my GOSH, THAT was incredible!" And the judge agreed! She told me then and there that she hadn't taken any points off for that exercise!

Then we did Open. Frosty did the same absolutely incredible heeling in Open as he did in Utility. Wow. Good Fronts. Good Finishes. Good job. Two dogs later, I did Icey. She had a nice go too. Since Frosty had done so nicely, I handled him for stays and handed Icey off to a friend who shows a sheltie. I gave her a handful of hot dogs and Icey was THRILLED to go with her! Both dogs did their stays just fine. Good dogs!

We went back in for ribbons. All weekend, the judge was doling out ribbons by starting with 4th place. So 4th was a poodle. 3rd was a beardedie. Icey was second. Anddrum roll.....my Frosty boy was FIRST with a 198.5!!! WOOHOOOOOO!!!! That was his Open First which is one of the requirements for his OTCH! He's still got a long way to go to get to that, but the Open First can be really hard to get. So now Frosty has a first in Open and a first in Utility. He needs one more first in either class.

Then we had to stay and see how Open A and Novice panned out. There was a nice sheltie who had gone HIT yesterday from Open A. She had a nice go again today to finish her title. She won Open A with a 198. So then we had to see how Novice went. There were several nice dogs in Novice B. A Portuguese Water Dog won it with a 196. So Frosty ended up winning High in Trial today as well!!! Woohoo!!!

And as ice cream to go with the frosting on our cake, the First place points finished Frosty's Keeshond Club of America's Obedience Hall of Fame!!! WOOOOOOO-HOOOOOOO!!! It was very much Frosty's Day!

Margaret Bissell

Keepsake Kees

Satchmo and I spent our weekend at the Pet Expo in Timonium for an indoor dock diving competition. In the individual waves which each had 45 dogs, he placed: First and Third in a strong Master's group and then made finals in the Master's group which includes dogs jumping 20 -22'11" feet. In finals, he was seated 5th out of 6 and finished 3rd! I was surprised and so proud of him and he has a really nice prize bag and a check!

Another highlight of the weekend was when the

it announcer told the crowd when Satchmo came up to jump that they were about to see the dog with one of the best jumping forms dock diving.

Joy and Satchmo

My Whippet Tyler went Select both Fri. & Sun. at the conformation shows down in Doswell, VA (Kings Dominion exit) this weekend. That Select on Sun. was a "major" one. He now has all 3 majors & all wins against another Ch, and only needs 6 pts. for his GRAND CH.

In other news, his 1/2 sister Ashley received her BRONZE level Grand CH. in the mail recently. You get both a certificate & a small bronze medallion that can be used as a necklace. That Bronze level requires 100 pts. -- & Selects, & Best Opposite Sex do count. She ended the year 16th in Achievement pts. for that Bronze level. She also ended up 27th in overall Breed pts. -- & only Best of Breeds count toward that.

Bobbie Lutz

Hi guys,

It's been a while since Zorro had a brag, but this weekend he earned his APDT rally title of ARCHMX2. For those of you who don't do APDT rally, to get there he has earned:

--Level 1, 2, and 3 titles--3 legs each

--ARCH title (5 double Q's of levels 1 & 2, scores must be 190+, and 100 points)

--ARCHX title (5 more double Q's of levels 1 & 2, scores must be 195+)

--ARCHEX title (10 double Q's of levels 2 & 3, scores must be 195+)

--ARCHMX title (10 triple Q's of levels 1, 2, & 3, scores 195+)

--ARCHMX2 title (another set of triple Q's of levels 1, 2, & 3, scores 195+)

and he earned almost all those 20 triple Q's since his nerve condition was diagnosed two years ago--thanks to APDT for allowing disabled dogs to compete with modifications!

I am so proud of him, and he is so proud of himself--he seems so happy doing rally.

I am going to do the Veterans class with him now, so he can keep playing as long as he wants--he is 12- 1/2.

Thanks for listening!

Amy Grimm



“More Brags!”

The furry dogs had a good weekend! We went to Charlotte for Obedience. LONG drive, but a great place to show. On Saturday, Frosty held it all together to qualify in both Open B and Utility B to earn UDX leg #3!!!
Icey also Q'd in both classes for her 60th UDX leg to finish her UDX6 Title!!! She also won a 3 way run off for 3rd place in Open out of 21 dogs, and was 4th in Utility with 30 dogs. Today, Icey also Q'd in both classes. With the scores she earned, she accumulated enough points to earn her OM8!!!

Margaret Bissell
Keepsake Kees

Our handsome 20 month old Basset Hound, Johnny, took BOB (Best of Breed) at the Howard County show today....beating three other specials. He was handled by Kevin Merritt who did a beautiful job with him. We are very proud of them both. If I have it all figured up correctly....he now has earned ten Grand Champion points.

Anita Belt

Tyler earned his AKC GRAND CHAMPIONSHIP today!! His final 6 pts. were earned w/a "major" 3 pt. Best Opposite Sex yesterday at the Howard Cnty. (Maryland KC) dog shows & then a "major" Select up there today (2/19/12).

'Daddy' Fred had to do the handling as I'm still recovering from carpal tunnel surgery on my left hand this past Monday (thank goodness it wasn't my 'mousing' hand). Tyler is Fred's "first born" so you can imagine how excited he is.

Bobbie Lutz



How to Prepare for a Puppy

Pour cold apple juice on the carpet in several places and walk around barefoot in the dark.

Wear a sock to work that has had the toes shredded by the blender.

Immediately upon waking, stand outside in the rain and dark saying, "Be a good puppy, go potty - now hurry up- come on, let's go!"

Cover all your best clothes with dog hair.

Dark clothes must use white hair; light clothes must use dark.

Float some hair in your first cup of coffee in the morning.

Play "catch" with a wet tennis ball.

Run out in the snow/rain in your bare feet to close the gate.

Tip over a basket of clean laundry; scatter clothing all over the floor.

Leave your underwear on the living room floor

because that's where the puppy will drag it anyway...

especially when company is coming.

Jump out of your chair shortly before the end of your favorite TV program and run to the door shouting "NO, NO! DO THAT OUTSIDE!"

Miss the end of the program

Put chocolate pudding on the carpet in the morning;

don't clean it up until you get home from work in the evening.

Gouge the leg of the dining room table several times with a screwdriver...

it's going to get chewed on anyway.

Take a warm and cuddly blanket out of the dryer and immediately wrap it around yourself.

this is the feeling you will get when your puppy falls asleep on your lap

Author Unknown





Annual Celebration of Groundhog Day in North America

by Lynn Oliver, Wildlife Rehabber and BRDTC member

This year, Puxatawny Phil didn't see his shadow on Feb 2. That's a rare occurrence. Now, in our area, male groundhogs are beginning to wake up. Their main mission: to literally sniff out females in heat (who are still sleeping in their dens) and pay them a conjugal visit. Then, only 30 days later, mama's got babies!

Woodchucks, also known by their slang name -- Groundhogs -- are mammals from the rodentia branch, found in North America. They are considered by most to be a nuisance species and are openly disdained. However, they offer more than just what meets the eye.



Groundhogs aren't just pests. Here are some interesting things you might not know about them:

- They have thick, tough hide, once used by Native Americans to make moccasins. Incidentally, the Native Americans gave the Woodchuck it's name, based on the sounds they made "Wuchak."
- Groundhog fur is popular for making trout fishing flies
- They can be quite entertaining to watch: babies play, squealing and rolling like puppies; babies will follow mama around, learning what to eat and how to hide from predators
- Have their own "day" and tongue twister (How much wood would a woodchuck chuck...); also their own beer (Woodchuck Cider)
- Their diggings aerate the soil and help spread seeds/nuts
- Their empty burrows serve as homes for other wildlife
- They serve as food source for predatory species
- They are used in research (Cornell) for hepatitis study, food intake/obesity studies, and more
- They emit a musky odor from scent glands (smells oniony)
- They are fairly agnostic towards others, sometimes living in colonies, but each to it's own burrow
- They are good climbers and swimmers
- They molt once a year
- They are related to chipmunks, squirrels and prairie dogs and are the third largest rodent in the US (first being the beaver and second being the porcupine)
- They are one of few true hibernators (vs torpor); Body temp drops to about 40°F; heart rate slows to 4–5 beats/minute; rely on stored body fat to survive
- They are quite vocal: "chuckle," grunt, squeal, growl, chatter (teeth), "whistle"
- They are STRONG! All muscles from head to shoulders
- They bury their poop, like a cat
- The openings of their dens face South to catch sun (warmth)
- Their dens are 15–50 ft. long and 2–6 ft. deep





- The groundhog's internal clock, along with increased sunlight, changes in hormone levels are all thought to trigger a wake-up
- Groundhog Day is halfway between the winter solstice and the vernal equinox (in March). Celebrated in some cultures as the midpoint of winter. Since groundhogs naturally wake up about that time – the association of this rodent (to 6 more weeks of winter – or not) was born.

To discourage groundhogs who are being a nuisance, we recommend:

- Beach ball tethered in yard or balloons (repeated movement will have them on high alert)
- Urine from predator around den entrance (garden centers); or use household ammonia
- Keeping dogs nearby will keep them on high alert
- Electric fencing
- Taste deterrent on plants (Ropel Liquid)
- Sometimes learning to live with them is best bet (something less desirable -like a skunk- might move in)

One last note: If you can approach a baby groundhog, it needs rescuing! Often their mamas are killed, leaving babies to starve in the den. If they can, they will eventually come out. 99% of the baby groundhogs I get in rehab are orphans. They need fluids and warmth, so call me immediately! Other times the babies are accidentally dug up. Mama doesn't usually have an alternate den, and if she comes back and her den is gone, she may not take the babies, so again, call me (or another rehabber who takes groundhogs).

Photos: All are babies I rehabbed and released.





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VISIT US ON THE WEB
WWW.BLUERIDGEDOGTRAININGCLUB.COM



WHAT'S HAPPENING

- April 20 - Meeting
- May 9 - Meeting
- June 15 - Meeting
- July 6-8 - Agility Trial
- July 28 - Picnic Meeting
- Aug 4 - Obedience Trial
- Sept 5 - Meeting

a visit to the nursing homes

- Envoy 1st & 3rd Monday 11am
- Spring Arbor 2nd & 4th Tuesday 1 pm
- Hill Top 2nd & 4th Friday 10:45 am



**March 8-11
Agility Trial at the
Sportsplex**

**March 14
Pizza Party Meeting
Starts at 7:30 pm
At the Sportsplex
Board Meeting
6:30 pm**