

# Blues News

BLUE RIDGE  
DOG TRAINING  
CLUB, INC.



Established 1967

March 2016



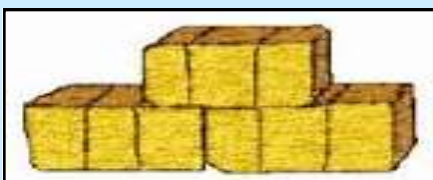
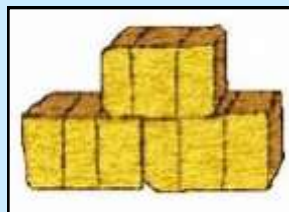
## Barn Hunt Meeting

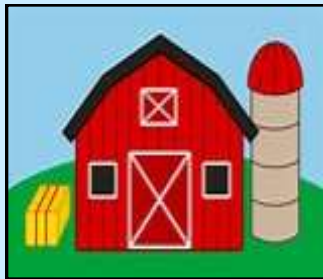
Pictures by Donna Germelman



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# 2016 BRDTC Agility Trial

Pictures by Marzenna Gilbert





















Blue Ridge Dog Training Club Tracking Test  
March 20, 2016

On Sunday, March 20th, BRDTC held their tracking test. We had four TD tracks with one dog passing. Sugarstone's Rambling Brooke owned by Karen Powell passed. First time track layer, Andy Podolak was successful with his track laying abilities. We had 3 TDX tracks and 1 alternate. Two of the dogs passed. Thanks to Patrice Leipham and Tom Anderson for your tracking laying abilities. A Chesapeake Bay Retriever, Eastern Waters' Makai, owned by Gary and Doreen Palmer, and a Portuguese Water Dog, Great Lakes Southern Cooking, owned by Louise Mowbrey were successful in earning their TDX.

Many thanks to our track layers:

TD – Andy Podolak, Teri Houliston, Michelle, and Donna Smith

TDX – Tom Anderson, Mary Ann Dean, Patrice Leipham, and Jeff Telandier

Cross Track Layers – Cheryl and David Harrison and Marzenna Gilbert

Our judges were Sue Ammerman and Judi Edwards.

Many thanks to the following folks for the use of their property: Donna Thompson, the folks at Timber Ridge, and the Baptist Retreat. Without their generosity we couldn't have a test.





# "A Big Thank You!"

A big THANK YOU to all of the members who came out to help put on one of the best agility trials in the area! I'm already getting thank you emails from the exhibitors about how much they enjoyed it.

People especially like the new running order and the shorter days with 330 runs vs. 450. My only complaint is that we always have the time change on Saturday night with our March trial! At least this year we didn't have 8" of snow the first day.

Special thanks to Gretchen Mason, co-chair, who did an awesome job with the volunteers Friday and Saturday while Anne was goofing off at her real job. I know Gretchen was happy to see Anne come in to take that task on today!

The bag ladies (and dude) provided us with sustenance to keep us going.

Courses were quickly and expertly built by John and Stacy and crew. And now that John's an official measurer that takes a burden from our judge. Dan was very happy about that!

All the behind the scenes people who unload the trailer, put the ring together, and then undo the whole process on Sunday - you all are awesome! I'm afraid if I start naming names, I will forget someone - you know who you are and I am ever so thankful for your generosity.

So many people volunteered to work classes and some even won raffle prizes, yay!

I saw some great runs by club members - let's hear some brags!

Kindle had fabulous Standard runs all 3 days but we fell apart in JWW all 3 days for various reasons. Doesn't matter, I have a healthy dog who loves the game and its all fun!!

Janice

I echo your comments, THANK YOU EVERYONE. I appreciate you all. And a BIG THANKS to you Janice & to Debbie Kaufman!!!!

And CONGRATS to Ms. Kindle!

Bobbie Lutz

You a really worried me, but you really came through with lots of donations for the trial. Thank you ever so much! And a big hug to the Bag People for a job well done. We have more fun than anyone, and we get lots of compliments.

Donna T.

Just finished the accounting for the agility trial last weekend and the club made a profit of \$3936 on the trials and the bag ladies and dudes made a profit of \$442. Thanks to all the club members who came out and volunteered and brought food and worked at the lunch table. You keep this club going and make us all look good.

Donna Richardson  
treasurer



# RABIES CLINIC

FREDERICK COUNTY  
ESTHER BOYD  
ANIMAL SHELTER

BEHIND  
JAIL → 161 FORT COLLIER ROAD  
540-667-9192

**SATURDAY  
MAY 14  
11-3 PM**

BRING CURRENT RABIES CERTIFICATE IF YOU HAVE ONE

**\$13**  
CASH ONLY - NO CHECKS

## Picture Of the Month



*“Happy  
Easter”  
The Lutz  
Family*

### Tropical Treats

2 Jars of Chicken and Gravy (only) Baby Food  
2 Banana's  
2 Eggs

1 & ½ Cups of Coconut Flour  
½ Cup of White Rice flour  
1 Tblsp. Coconut Oil

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Mix all ingredients. If dough is too sticky add more Rice flour, if too dry add some water. Scoop out ½ tablespoonful of dough roll into a ball then flatten on cookie sheet (lined with parchment paper). Bake for 20-25 minutes. To get crunchier and last longer let cool in oven while it is cooling. Makes about 4 dozen flatten balls, dough not easy to do cut outs with. Keep in a cool place or freeze extra.

### “A Big ESSA Thank You”

A big thank you to the Bag Ladies for such a great job of making people happy!

And Janet Moore was there on time!!! So proud of her, and Jasper is getting better with each trial. Congrats to Stormy & Annette who have come so far.

Hugs to Cindy who kept her happy voice with poor Choice who had a meltdown.

Donna t

Another successful trial weekend and I want to thank all the Blue Ridge people who helped out my English Setter club in setting up, working the trial, and tearing down and to the Bag Ladies who supplied the fabulous lunches every day. I honestly don't think we could put on this trial without your help and I thank you all from the bottom of my heart.

Donna





## 6 Ways Your Dogs Can Give You a Tax Break

Some costs of dog ownership can be deductible, but only if you fall under certain categories.

We love them, play with them, groom them, and go to great lengths to care for them. And who can blame us? They're members of our family. We want the best for them and we indulge them with new toys, fancy food, or plush beds whenever our budget allows it. And when the worst happens and our dog gets ill and needs extensive veterinary care, we find a way to scrape up the money to make our best friend better.

So when tax season rolls around, many pet parents might be thinking how their dogs might be considered as dependents or legitimate tax deductions.

Caring for our furry friends isn't cheap. Collectively, pet parents in the U.S. spent \$53 billion last year, according to the American Pet Products Association. The individual cost of raising a dog ranges from \$1,314 annually for smaller breeds to \$1,843 a year for big dogs, according to the ASPCA. This figure includes dog food, pet insurance coverage, basic preventative veterinary care, and grooming costs.

A few years ago, there was a movement to relieve some of the burden of pet care costs. A bill was introduced to Congress, H.R. 3501, called the "Humanity and Pets Partnered through the Years" (or, HAPPY). Michigan Rep. Thaddeus McCotter introduced the bill, along with Rep. Steve Cohen of Tennessee and Rep. Jared Polis of Colorado, in the hopes of reducing pet parents' financial burdens by allowing a \$3,500 tax deduction per year. Although the bill was endorsed by many organizations (including the ASPCA, the Humane Society of the United States, the Animal Law Coalition, the American Veterinary Medical Association, and the Pet Industry Joint Advisory Council), it failed to garner enough votes to pass.

So if Uncle Sam isn't going to give pet parents a break, is there anything else that can be done? Well, maybe. Lisa Greene-Lewis, lead CPA at the American Tax and Financial Center at TurboTax, says there are some legitimate tax deductions for pet parents, but only in specific instances. She cautions taxpayers to tread carefully when making these deductions by having receipts and documentation to back up these claims, should the IRS decide to audit your return. Here are six instances where you could make a deduction:

### 1. Service dogs

If you or your dependent receives assistance from a service dog such as a seeing-eye dog, you can deduct the cost of buying, training, and caring for the dog. Such dogs are considered medical expense deductions.

### 2. Guard dogs

If Fido guards your place of business, you would be able to write off expenses for care and feeding. However, Uncle Sam is not going to approve of a deduction for a Chihuahua or Pekingese, no matter how fierce they act. Your deduction is less likely to raise an auditor's eyebrow if your dog is a traditional guard breed such as a Rottweiler, German Shepherd, or Doberman Pinscher.



### 3. Breeders

Dog breeders can claim the care and feeding expenses for their dogs and puppies as a business deduction, as long as breeding is their career and not a hobby, says Greene-Lewis. If you have a space on your property dedicated exclusively to breeding, it is also a viable business deduction.

### 4. Pet actors

Taxpayers who are lucky enough to have a pet in show business can deduct some of the expenses directly related to the business, as long as the expenses are reasonable. And no, we're not talking about that cute video of Bowser chasing his tail that you uploaded to YouTube last week.

### 5. Adoption

Good news! Not only can you save a dog's life, but you can deduct the cost of the donation for adopting the dog. These adoption fees typically cover shots and the cost of a spay or neuter surgery.

### 6. Foster care

If you directly foster a dog for an animal shelter or rescue organization, you can deduct expenses such as vet bills, boarding, food, collars, leashes, medication, and toys. If you've been on the fence about whether to foster dogs, perhaps this news will tip fostering in your favor.

Hopefully, these tax tips will provide some guidance on what pet-related tax deductions are legal in the eyes of Uncle Sam. If you have any further questions, it's best to consult an enrolled agent or CPA to get expert advice.

And if you'd like to see your fur kid eligible as a tax deduction in the future, contact your Congressional representative!

### **FYI . . .a new performance event, Fast CAT ...Cathie Skoog, [cathieskoog@verizon.net](mailto:cathieskoog@verizon.net)**

The American Kennel Club is pleased to announce the launch of a new event called Fast CAT<sup>SM</sup>.

The Fast CAT test is a timed 100-yard-dash where a dog chases a lure. Dogs are run one at a time. It is a fun and healthy activity for dogs and their owners that answers the intriguing question – how fast can my dog run? The event is open to all dogs that are at least twelve months of age and are individually registered or listed with the AKC (registered purebred, FSS, PAL or AKC Canine Partner).

“The popularity of the coursing ability test demonstrates the enthusiasm of a dog when their inner instinct is awakened,” says Doug Ljungren, Vice President for Sports & Events. “Now that same enthusiasm can be timed to determine how fast your dog can run. Who knows, you many have a national caliber track star sitting next to you. The national rankings by breed will show how your dog compares.”

All AKC clubs currently licensed to hold lure coursing trials or coursing ability tests are automatically licensed to hold Fast CAT and can begin to hold events immediately. All other AKC member or licensed clubs may apply to the Performance Events Department ([PerformanceEvents@akc.org](mailto:PerformanceEvents@akc.org)) to become licensed to hold Fast CAT, provided they have the experience, equipment and location to hold a safe event. Another option is for clubs that have a suitable location but may not have the knowledge or manpower to hold Fast CAT to consider partnering with an existing AKC lure coursing club to hold Fast CAT in conjunction with their event. Fast CAT may be held as either a stand-alone event or in conjunction with other AKC events. In all cases the Fast CAT test must be applied for as a separate event with its own event number.





## "WAGS & BRAGS"



Fun day with our girls playing agility. Cricket was clean - 7 Qs for 7 runs.

Kismet earned her NATCH 7 and Versatility NATCH 5.

Love these two Cattle Dog rescues.

**Kitty Bowman**



Chia was a good girl this weekend. On Friday she finished her open standard preferred title with a first place. On Saturday, she earned her first leg in excellent JWW preferred with a second place. Not bad, considering that we only made it to two classes this session!

**Kathy**

The shelties and I had a great time this weekend @ the trial. Lacey Q'd in Master Standard Preferred on Friday, Double Q'd on Saturday, no Qs on Sunday, we seem to be having weave pole troubles. Willie was the surprise of the weekend. He got his first leg in Excellent Standard on Friday with a first place, wasn't entered on Saturday, got his second leg in Excellent Standard on Sunday and his first leg in Excellent JWW also, with two first places. I am still in shock....lol Gibbs had a blast meeting the puppies and was an angel while in his crate. We stopped at Packs for ice cream Sunday on the way home to celebrate; it was also Lacey's 7th birthday.

**Sandy Golden**

We were only at the agility trial on Friday & my Whippet Ashley got it together to earn an Excellent Std. Preferred leg with a score of 100 & several seconds under time. Not bad for an 11 yr. old. One more leg to go for the title.

CONGRATS to everyone else for their Q's.

**Bobbie Lutz**

I want to congrats everyone who Q'd this weekend. So here is my brag, Travis earned his title in ex standard Sat. we worked very hard to not poop out of the weave pools. He did great and even have a few seconds left. I am so proud of this ten year old boy, he still can move. We fell apart on JWW but that is ok we had fun.

**Annette**

Hope everyone had a good Easter. I spent it with a couple of my dogs at the English Setter agility trial. Yesterday Ashley finished her Excellent Standard Preferred title & today earned an "insurance" leg with both perfect scores & under time! Travis had way too much fun creating his own courses out there.

**Bobbie**





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VISIT US ON THE WEB  
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## WHAT'S HAPPENING

April 9 - Awards Dinner  
July 8-10 AKC Agility Trial  
Aug 5-7 akc Obedience & Rally trial  
Nov 18-20 akc obedience & rally trial  
Dec. 2-4 akc agility trial

month a visit to the  
nursing homes

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

***2016 Awards Banquet***  
***At***  
***Best Western***  
***April 9***  
***6:00 pm***

