

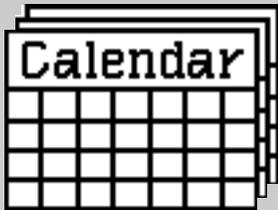


# Ruff Notes

January, 2003

**President: Lynn Schmitt**  
Downstay@earthlink.net

**Editor: Marilyn Runyan**  
mrunyan@cruzio.com



## What's Happening in January?

- 6 Board Meeting, First National Bank, Watsonville, 7:00
- 7 Watsonville classes start
- 8 Pet Pals, Soquel AM classes start
- 9 Capitola PM & Salinas classes start
- 14 Conformation classes start
- 18 General Membership meeting, Golden Rickshaw, Watsonville, 5:00
- 21 Ruff Notes deadline

"Sometimes I lie awake at night, and I ask, 'Where have I gone wrong?' Then a voice says to me, 'This is going to take more than one night.'  
—Charles Schulz, "Peanuts"

## Paws for the President

Dear Members and Friends:



Hm, New Year's is just around the corner and I still have those bells ringing outside every storefront, post office, etc. Seems to me they started before Thanksgiving!!

We had a wonderful holiday dinner, and I know many join with me in sincerest thanks to **BG** for putting it all together! The table keepsakes were terrific, not to mention the good food and good time!

Thanks, too, to **Judy Force** and **Sue Adams** for putting together and monitoring the auction—never an easy task! Thanks also to those who donated!!!

A special thanks to **Dale** and **Pam** for doing a spectacular job on the awards. If you thanked **Dale** he would say "don't thank me, thank **Pam**, she did it all" and if you thanked **Pam**, she would say "don't thank me, thank **Dale**, he did it all." Well, I know you both did a tremendous amount of work on a most professional presentation; and it was so enjoyed by all. Can't thank you enough.

As for the awards given to me—I am at a loss for words—other than "it takes a village" so whatever I do, I have many behind me to help me get it done. Therefore, the awards hang on my wall as an acknowledgement to many who help get things done.

Happiest of New Year's to you all!

## Why Do Dogs Whine?

from *Why Do Dogs Do That?*  
via *Dog Fancy*, April 2002

We've all heard the sound: high-pitched and throaty. A whine can be the most annoying sound a dog makes—or the most "awwww"-inspiring. One of the first sounds a young puppy makes, a whine comes with a payoff of warmth, food, and comfort. Dogs learn early that a whine brings attention from their mother.

As they grow older, dogs learn to use this noise to manipulate people. Who can resist the combination of puppy-dog eyes and soft whimpering?

Some dogs whine when frightened. But if you rush to soothe the dog, you inadvertently reinforce the behavior. Nip whining in the bud by ignoring it and other annoying sounds and rewarding silence.

**Demonstrating Responsible Dog Ownership**

## Bragg

### Carolyn Meyer:

*Morgan* scored 100 four times in Excellent B Jumpers, including a third place and scored 100 twice in Excellent B Standard, including a fourth place. He had two double Qs in the process.

### Christa Cordtz:

*Deva* won Winners Bitch and Best of Winners at Salinas KC for 1 point and was Winners Bitch for 2 points the next day. At San Mateo she was WB and BOS over two specials for another two points. She earned her second Senior Courser leg at the BCOC Lure Trial where *Hooligan* also earned his 7th MC leg and another Championship point.

### Linda Lang:

At the Golden Retriever Nationals *Amber* took second in 8-10 year Veterans and second in the Brood Bitch class. *Phoenix* (*Amber's* son) took fourth in Open Dogs, and *Tyler* took the first Award of Merit in the Best of Breed ring. At the LA Golden Specialty *Tyler* went BOB and *Phoenix* was Reserve Winners Dog.

### Crissy Hastings-Baugh:

*Logan* at Contact Point Agility had three double Qs from Excellent B Standard and Jumpers in three days. *Gracie* had five qualifying scores from Excellent B Standard and Jumpers in three days with two double Qs.



This month's Hot Dog Awards run from November 20 through December 24.

*Trial Hot Dog*—This month no trial scores were reported.

*Agility Trial Hot Dog*—This month the Agility Trial Hot Dog Award goes to Crissy Hastings-Baugh and Gracie for their 74.43% score at Contact Point Agility.

*Note:* Agility Hot Dog Awards are based on the score earned. In case of a tie, the dog who completed the course in the fastest time relative to the time allowed will be selected. When reporting agility scores, please include the time allotted for the course and the time in which your dog completed the course.

## How Far Are Some Willing To Go To Support PETA?

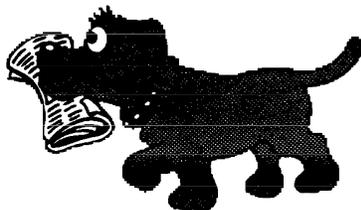
via Western Livestock Journal (excerpts)  
submitted by Noreen Silva

A new Center for Consumer Freedom ad ... includes the words of PETA (People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals) president and co-founder **Ingrid Newkirk**: "Even if animal research resulted in a cure for AIDS, we'd be against it." (To view this ad, visit <http://www.ConsumerFreedom.com>).

PETA's harsh stand on AIDS research is one example of the group's national effort to achieve what Newkirk has called "total animal liberation."

Total animal liberation means no beef, poultry, eggs, leather, fur, hunting, fishing, circuses, zoos, pets and no animal research whatsoever for medical cures or treatments. In addition to opposing animal research in the pursuit of an AIDS cure, PETA has placed over 70 worthwhile charities on its "don't donate" list—including the March of Dimes, American Heart Association, American Cancer Society, and Christopher Reeve Paralysis Foundation.

Also, PETA has funneled over \$100,000 to criminals convicted of destroying animal research and firebombing scientific laboratories.



## Correction:

The Agility Hot Dog of the month announced last month was incorrect (my error—editor). The Del Monte Trial took place prior to the eligible dates. Last month's Agility Hot Dog actually goes to **Denise Panzich** and *Monique* for their Fresno DTC score of 100. My apologies to all.

"We give dogs time we can spare, space we can spare and love we can spare. And in return, dogs give us their all. It's the best deal man has ever made."

—M. Facklam

# Christmas Awards Announced

*Canine Good Citizen:*  
Malachi Thompson

*Novice Agility:*  
Kara Nelson  
Caddi Welborn  
Piper Force  
Pam Strametz  
Kelli Bashista  
Bradie Runyan  
Tyler Lang  
Molly Hetrick  
Jack Flash Slater  
Julia Slater  
Monique Panzich

*Novice Agility Jumpers Dog:*  
Belle Harbertson  
Bradie Runyan  
Tyler Lang  
Molly Hetrick  
Jack Flash Slater  
Julia Slater  
Monique Panzich

*Open Agility Dog:*  
Belle Harbertson  
Tyler Lang  
Buddy Root  
Cuda Smith  
Jiffy Vidak

*Open Agility Jumpers Dog:*  
Dutchess Slater  
Eclair Harbertson  
Jiffy Vidak

*Agility Excellent Dog:*  
Tess Hetrick  
Amber Lang  
Keeper Slater  
Jiffy Vidak

*Agility Excellent Jumpers Dog:*  
Amber Lang  
Keeper Slater  
Jiffy Vidak

*Master Agility Excellent Dog:*  
Noah Thompson  
Morgan Meyer

*Master Agility Excellent Jumpers Dog:*  
Noah Thompson  
Morgan Meyer

*MACH:*  
Jasmine Fugitt-Hetrick  
Gracie Hastings  
Logan Hastings

*Tracking Dog Excellent:*  
Jiffy Vidak

*HSAS Dog:*  
Morgan Meyer

*Champion:*  
Fay Cordtz  
Tyler Lang  
Jack Nelson

*Companion Dog:*  
Rosita Lambert  
Merlin Bashista  
Razz Strametz  
CJ Welborn  
Malachi Thompson  
Spirit Davis

*Companion Dog Excellent:*  
Kelli Bashista  
Alex Garcia

*Versatile Companion Dog 2:*  
Jiffy Vidak

*MX/MXJ Award:*  
Noah Thompson  
Morgan Meyer

*MACH Award:*  
Jasmine Fugitt-Hetrick  
Gracie Hastings  
Logan Hastings

*Agility Hot Dog:*  
Crissy Hastings with Gracie

*High Aggregate Score, completing a title in three shows:*  
Carol Davis with Spirit

*Most Title Placements (Obedience)*  
Carol Davis with Spirit and Sugar

*Obedience Hot Dog:*  
Carol Davis with Sugar

*VCD Award:*  
Luane Vidak with Jiffy

*High Combined (Open B and Utility):*  
Carol Davis with Sugar

*Phoebus Award:*  
Michael Bashista and Merlin

*President's Award:*  
Lynn Schmitt

*Board Appreciation Award:*  
Marilyn Runyan

*MBDTC Sportsmanship Award:*  
Lynn Schmitt

5 times

score 580.5

14 placements

3 times

VCD 2

393.5 points

No winners this year for:

High Scoring Junior Handler  
Two Titles in One Year  
UDX Plaque  
Perfect 200 Score  
OTCH Plaque



# Happy Birthday



January	1	Danny Griffith
	6	Kathie Haines
	17	Crissy Hastings-Baugh
	18	Liza Pierce
	23	Pam Strametz
	25	Adrienne Harrold
	27	Anne Terry

and to all our furry friends born in January

1	Kiska Lambert CD, CGC (Keeshound Mix)	age 16
1	Phoenix Lambert (Toy Manchester)	age 14
1	Skittle Terry CD, U-CD, NA, NAJ, CGC (Papillon)	age 14
1	Jay Vidak (Mixed Breed)	age 13
1	Ch Hooligan Cordtz CD, SC (Borzoi)	age 4
1	Ch Rusty Cordtz (Borzoi)	age 4
1	Ch Fay Cordtz (Borzoi)	age 4
6	Sizzle Del Conte (Doberman Pinscher)	age 2
7	Kiah Green CDX, CGC (Rottweiler)	age 7
10	Cinnamon Gidding CGC (Labrador Retriever)	age 7
11	Malachi Thompson CGC (Australian Shepherd)	age 4
12	Bree Nelson CD, DD, NA, CGC (Newfoundland)	age 4
12	Hunter Nelson WD (Newfoundland)	age 4
15	Ch Zippy Holderman CDX, OA, OAJ (Chesapeake Bay Retr)	age 8
15	Ch Wind Silva CDX, NA, CGC (Chesapeake Bay Retr)	age 8
18	OTCH Sunshine Root UDX, AX, AXJ (Golden Retriever)	age 13
23	Chester Nie (Miniature Longhaired Dachshund)	age 2
23	Tigger Nie (Miniature Longhaired Dachshund)	age 2
23	Finnegan Force CDX, NA, RD, CGC (Dalmatian)	age 9
30	Missy Coe (Mixed Breed)	age 5

# A Super Recipe for Those of You Tired of Turkey

via *Sand Script*  
California Retired Teachers  
Association

## Elephant Stew

One elephant (medium)  
2 rabbits (optional)  
salt and pepper

Cut elephant into bite-sized pieces. This should take about two months. Add enough brown gravy to cover. Cook over kerosene fire for about four weeks at 465 degrees. Season to taste with salt and pepper. This will serve about 3800 people. If more are expected, two rabbits may be added, but only if necessary. Most people don't like hare in their soup.



# Exhibitor Input Sought for 2003 Obedience Advisory

[Thursday, December 12, 2002]

submitted by Luane Vidak via Pam Strametz

Patricia Krause, AVP for Companion Events, announced an Obedience Advisory Committee meeting April 26 and 27, 2003 in Raleigh, NC. "This is in keeping with the over-all AKC plan of convening Advisory Committees every four years. The purpose is to evaluate input from the fancy and set the course for obedience," said Ms. Krause.

Exhibitors, instructors, judges and clubs are encouraged to suggest ideas for classes, titles, regulation changes or clarifications that they believe to be in the best interest of AKC Obedience. Submissions will be accepted at

obadv@akc.org or may be mailed to Patricia Krause, AKC Companion Events, P. O. Box 37930, Raleigh, NC 27627-7930.

"From past experience, the tremendous number of ideas and suggestions contributed will make it impossible for Companion Events to respond," said Ms. Krause, "but every one we receive will be brought to the committee's attention. I will share with the fancy the trends that we see from their input."

The previous committee met in August of 1999. Among their recommendations were the addition of the non-regular

Pre-novice class, varying the exercises in Open B and Utility B, start times for classes, and the introduction of Rally.

The 1999 Committee also made suggestions that led to the increasingly popular Versatile Companion Dog titles. All of their recommendations were made based on the suggestions, information, and concerns submitted by the fancy.

"This is the opportunity for interested folks to have a voice in shaping the course of Obedience. I look forward to hearing from them," added Ms. Krause.



# How to Prepare for a Puppy

from the Internet via **Sandi Pensinger**

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 a 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 suits with dog hair. Dark suits must use white hair, and light suits must use dark hair. Also float some hair in your first cup of coffee in the morning.

Play "catch" with a wet tennis ball.

Run out in the snow 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 dog will drag it anyway. (Especially when you have company.)

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, and don't try to clean it up until you return from work that 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

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## The Litter Box

**Debbie Nelson** proudly announces the adoption of Newfies *Seamus* and *Hattie*. *Hobbes* is the proud father and *Dancer* is their mother.

**Linda and Dick Lang** proudly announce the adoption of 8-week-old Golden Retriever *Rosie*, an Amber granddaughter.

No one has been able to pinpoint the specific set of genes relating to deafness, but the condition seems somehow correlated to coat color. Dogs with white, merle, or harlequin coats—such as Great Danes, Boxers, and English Setters—are more prone to deafness than other breeds.

—*Dog Fancy*, February 2001



## Breed Specific:

### Bernese Mountain Dog

The popularity of the Bernese is rapidly increasing in both Europe and North America. In the 1930s, a number of breeders bred for increased size and guarding ability, which left a trait of temperamental unreliability in certain lines, leading to a tendency toward unprovoked aggression. Also, breeding from a small genetic stock has created certain problems, particularly shoulder lameness. A working breed, trained to herd livestock and pull carts, the Bernese readily learns obedience, and is successful in the show ring. It can be a sloppily affectionate giant, but it is best in the hands of an experienced dog handler.

**Breed History:** Another ancient breed, the Bernese had almost disappeared in the late 1800s when Franz Schertenlieb, a breeder investigating the history of Swiss mountain dogs, found several good individuals in the Berne region. This breed was given its present name in 1908.



#### BREED Facts:

Country of Origin: Switzerland  
Date of Origin: Antiquity / 1900s  
First Use: Draughting  
Use Today: Companion  
Other Name: Berner Sennenhund, Bernese Cattle Dog  
Life Expectancy: 10 - 12 years  
Weight Range: 87 - 90 pounds  
Height Range: 23 - 27 inches

Data gathered from:  
*DOGS (Portraits of over 400 Pedigrees)*  
Bruce Fogle, DVM  
*A Darling Kindersley Book*  
First American Edition, 2000

*Editor's Note: Breed Specific is a column in which I will highlight a different breed in each issue. Some will be club breeds, some not.*

## It's Meeting Time Again!

Kim Sutherland

Please join us at The Golden Ricksha, 1115 Freedom Blvd, Sat., January 18, at 5 p.m., for the first general meeting of 2003. A speaker is planned.

Please let **Kim** (438-0159 or kimsutherland@attglobal.net) know if you will be attending and your dinner selection (choices below). Price per person including tax and tip is \$7.00. All dinners include soup and your choice of the following :

- A - BBQ Pork Chow Mein, Fried Prawn, BBQ Pork Fried Rice
- B - BBQ Pork Fried Rice, Egg Foo Yung, Sweet and Sour Pork
- C - Chicken Chow Mein, BBQ Pork Fried Rice, Egg Roll
- D - BBQ Pork Chow Mein, BBQ Pork Fried Rice, Chicken Wings

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## Put Down That Aspirin!

via *Dog Fancy*, April 1999

Over-the-counter pain relievers can poison your pooch, the American Veterinary Medical Association reports. Drugs are the most common poison exposure for small animals, particularly dogs, which don't tolerate them in the same way (or dosages) people do.



**Monterey Bay Dog Training Club**  
P. O. Box 1022  
Watsonville, CA 95077

## Look for Them

Those of you receiving *Ruff Notes* via hard copy, be sure to look in the minutes section for the AOCNC flyer, two sets of minutes, and information from **Marilyn Runyan** regarding Agility Hot Dog selection procedures.

Those of you receiving *Ruff Notes* electronically, the AOCNC flyer, one set of minutes, and information from **Marilyn** regarding Agility Hot Dog selection procedure is at the end of the electronic file. The December Board minutes are in a separate file on the web site.



MINUTES  
GENERAL MEMBERSHIP ANNIVERSARY MEETING  
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2002  
First National Bank, Watsonville, CA

Call to Order: 5:37 p.m. (dinner)

Roll: 20 members present—Carol Davis, Pam Strametz, Noreen Silva, Michael and Marion Bashista, Jessica Hettrick, Pam Fugit-Hettrick, Crissy Hastings-Baugh, Sue Adams, Hazel Welborn, Mary Bettencourt, Betty Garcia, Dani Nelson, Debbie Nelson, Lynnette Smith, Marilyn Runyan, Kim Sutherland, Anne Terry, Judy Force, Lynn Schmitt. Guests: Harry Batlin and Fred Jones

Minutes: It was moved by Noreen and seconded by Marilyn to approve the minutes as published in Ruff Notes.

Agenda Review: As posted.

President's Report: Thanks to all for coming and bringing great food! No quorum at the Board meeting.

VP Report: Next Board meeting December 2 and General Meeting January 18, 2003. Brief discussion re phone committee vs email. Determined those that have email, email notification/reminder of general meeting and those without email—phone!

Treasurer Report: Bills are paid. UC Davis asked us to renew our sponsorship for the School of Vet Medicine scholarship. Have to renew the safety deposit box.

Corr Secty Rept: Linda Harbertson lost Merlin.

Membership: Dani introduced guest Fred Jones who has corgi and standard poodle. We have a raffle tonight so buy those tickets!!

Matches & Trials: Working on location for Obedience Workshop. Difficulty because it falls on July 4 holiday weekend (July 5). After some discussion, it was suggested that we double check the show calendar and move the obedience workshop one week earlier. Lynn will check to see if that works for Chair Tammy Del Conte—then work on a site!

Publicity: No report

Standing Committees:

Ruff Notes deadline November 19 and December 24, 2002.

Holiday Dinner at Severinos—BG reports the menu and cost at \$35.32 for Prime Rib, Chicken Marsala with all the buffet trimmings

CGC Tests—discussion to have CGC test during time when classes are on break. Anne Terry will check with Pet Pals. Issues—limit number of dogs; liability; 1.5 hours; staffing

Agility Classes—Michael said we have a verbal agreement with fairgrounds for \$300 per month in the covered arena for Jan/Feb/Mar/Apr. For May/Aug (Sept = zero because of fair) could probably move elsewhere because the horse people take over the arena area—lighting is the main concern. We can leave the trailer parked by the arena—no vandalism. Wood chips are down now but would be removed for us. Pam said there is an extra hitch lock in the obedience trailer that we could use. Day of the week to have class—narrowed down to Tues out as conflicts with obedience classes / Wed is available for Dee & Rob (potential instructors) / Thurs Michael has to teach a class but if someone else was willing to take over. Figure 28 to 30 people to sign up for classes. Discussion around practice equipment vs show equipment—wait until we get ahead dollar wise; hire help to setup/tear down just protect equipment—Michael will check this out. Michael will go over training contracts with Linda Lang and asks that the Training Advisory Committee review the potential trainers—Suzi Bluford, Dee Hutton, and Rob

AOCNC: February 9, 2003. Luane chairing.

Hot Dog Awards for Agility. Discussion centered around how the hot dog awards are calculated—how AKC calculates it versus how MBDTC calculates it. Two versions were explained and it was suggested to again bring it to the Board for review for next year's awards.

Unfinished Business:

We shall have a new trailer by Intersession—Lynn will pick it up.

Intersession—plans are in place—just waiting for more people to sign up. Pam S said most people will sign up at the last minute. Four sessions starting Dec 3, 10, 17 & 18.

Brag: Judy Force had 12 no spot/see spot puppies  
Logan #32 at the nationals in top 120 dogs in U.S. (Crissy)  
Jasmine #29th (Crissy)  
Dani reports Jack is now Champion Jack  
Anne has new milk chocolate Lab!  
Debbie had Hobbs puppies

Thanks to all for bringing such great food. A reminder you are all invited to the Board Meetings.

Adjournment: Motion made to adjourn by BG and seconded by Noreen at 6:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Lynn Schmitt

AOCNC ANNUAL ALL-BREED WORKSHOP  
FEBRUARY 9, 2003  
COW PALACE, DALY CITY  
(LOWER EXHIBIT BUILDING, BAYS B & C)  
ENTER AT GATE 5, GENEVA AVENUE

**ENTRIES:**

FEE is \$12.00 for FIRST ENTRY & \$10.00 for each addition entry, same dog. PLEASE USE ENTRY FORM BELOW (duplicate as necessary)! MAIL ENTRIES WITH FEE TO: AOCNC, 23902 Carmelita Drive, Hayward CA 94541. Please make check or money order payable to AOCNC. ENTRIES CLOSE ON TUESDAY, JANUARY 31, 2003 or when ring limits are reached (see #3 below). After closing, no telephone confirmations can be made. JUDGING SCHEDULES WILL BE MAILED TO THOSE WHO PROVIDE A SELF-ADDRESSED, STAMPED ENVELOPE or their E-MAIL ADDRESS with their entry. If you have questions, contact Noelle at pilat@pacbell.net.

**RING LIMITS:** There will be four (4) rings of each class and entries will be limited to 60 per ring in Novice (including Sub-Novice and Grad-Novice), 55 per ring in Open, and 40 per ring in Utility. Group exercises will be in separate rings.

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION,** contact the Event Secretary, Cathy Dutra, Fremont DTC. She can be reached by email at [HYPERLINK mailto:luanemv@cs.com](mailto:luanemv@cs.com) [cathydutra@aol.com](mailto:cathydutra@aol.com) or by phone at 510-793-0942.

**WORKSHOP RULES:**

No dogs under six months of age.

Novice Ring will judge Sub-novice and Novice. Open Ring will judge Graduate Novice and Open.

Dogs may enter and participate in any class. All Americans may compete for legs.

All ordinary training aids, including pinch collars and Plexiglas or wooden rods will be permitted as long as they are used as training aids and not for corrections. NO ELECTRONIC COLLARS and NO DROPPING OR PLACING OF FOOD will be allowed in the ring, on the wall or on the ring posts.

Reasonable corrections will be allowed in the ring. Exercises may be repeated at option of the Judge as time permits. AOCNC reserves the right to have dogs removed from the premises for cause.

No refunds will be given for dogs that do not exhibit. Please note: Workshops do not follow a precise time schedule.

JUDGING WILL BEGIN AT 8:30 a.m. Rings are hosted by individual AOCNC member Clubs.

**FOOD AND SEATING:**

No food will be available at the Cow Palace. McDonalds is 1/2 block east on Geneva Avenue.

No seating is provided by the Cow Palace or AOCNC. BRING YOUR OWN CHAIR!

NO ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES ARE ALLOWED ON THE PREMISES!

PLEASE USE A SEPARATE ENTRY FORM FOR EACH DOG ENTERED. DUPLICATE THIS FORM AS NECESSARY. MAIL COMPLETED FORM AND FEES TO: AOCNC, 23902 Carmelita Dr, Hayward CA 94541. Make check or money order payable to AOCNC. FEE is \$12.00 for first entry & \$10 for each additional entry for same dog.

Handler:	Classes Entered	Armband #
Phone: (_____)	1. _____	_____
Email Address:	2. _____	_____
Dogs Name:	3. _____	_____
Breed of Dog:	4. _____	_____

I agree to hold the AOCNC and the COW Palace harmless from any claim for loss or injury to myself, my dog or my children which may be alleged to have been caused directly or indirectly by the act of myself, this dog or my children while in or upon the Workshop grounds.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

FEE PAID: Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Check # \_\_\_\_\_

# Comments on Agility Hot Dog Determination

(presented to the Board December, 2002)

Marilyn Runyan

I strongly urge the Board *not* to change the procedures for determining Agility Hot Dog of the Month. The present method is fair to all dogs competing. Dogs which are considered for Hot Dog of the Month normally must have a clean run (unless no clean runs are submitted). The determining factor is the comparison of the time run with the standard course time, which results in a percentage. The lower the percentage, the better the score.

It has been said that the present method of computing the Agility Hot Dog of the Month is unfair to the Excellent dogs. Incidentally, this is the same method which was created by the people who wanted this agility acknowledgment in the first place.

If it were unfair, one would assume that the hot dog was disproportionately given to the Novice dogs. Let's examine that assumption. Out of the last twelve months, there was one month in which no agility scores were reported. That leaves eleven months to consider. Out of the eleven months, seven hot dogs were from the Excellent class (63.6%), one from Open (9.1%), and three from Novice (26.3%). Obviously, Excellent dogs do not suffer disproportionately in the determination of the Agility Hot Dog of the Month.

Incidentally, those dogs from Novice and Open who do well will very soon be in Excellent class themselves.

AKC sets criteria for all classes in obedience and agility, with each succeeding class requiring *more* from the dog in order to earn a qualifying score. In obedience new exercises are required, e.g., from heel off lead in Novice to signals in Utility. In agility AKC specifies that greater speed is required, along with additional obstacles.

In obedience when two dogs and handlers have identical scores from different classes and are being considered for High in Trial, there is a runoff using the Novice Heel Free exercise. While it is obvious that the Utility exercises are more demanding than the Novice exercises, there is no suggestion that the Utility dogs are treated unfairly or that Novice dogs should be required to compete to a Utility standard for a runoff. A score is a score, even though Utility is more challenging—as it should be and as AKC intends it to be.

In agility AKC has determined that ensuing classes should be more challenging to qualify. If AKC did not feel it was expressly appropriate that advanced classes *should* be run at a faster pace to qualify, the regulations would be written for the same speed requirement. AKC, in fact, *does* expect that advanced classes should be run with greater challenges and speeds.

It has been suggested that yards per second be used to determine which dog should be awarded our Hot Dog of the Month. Most agility trials do not have a High in Trial, although a few do. I contacted AKC about their requirements for HIT in agility trials. Their response was that they do *not* recommend HIT being offered in agility trials.

Allowing all dogs to compete against the standards for their class (be it Novice, Open, or Excellent) is fair to all dogs. It is an incentive for dogs from *all* classes to compete against the standards for the class in which they are entered. Novice and Open dogs should not be expected to compete at a faster rate of speed than AKC requires for their classes. Those standards for qualification were carefully thought out by AKC when they wrote the standards for each class. Dogs in lower classes should be held to the standard designated by AKC for that class; they should not be held to a standard for a higher class (as in Excellent).

Again, I strongly urge the Board *not* to change the procedures for determining Agility Hot Dog of the Month.