



St. Paul DOG TRAINING CLUB

NEWSLETTER December 2011

President's Perspective

by Karl Blakely



Another One in the Books

I find it hard to believe that another year has gone by and our annual banquet is upon us. No wonder our dogs' lives seem so short, the way time flies.

At last year's banquet, I was elected president of the Club. Even though I have been on the Board of Directors for many years, being president has changed my perspective. Each board member is each charged with specific tasks or responsibilities. The jobs we have are many, treasurer, tracking and collecting tuition, taking care of our facility, training directors, seminars, show chairs, website, rentals, equipment—the list goes on and on.

The challenge of keeping SPDTC running is equivalent to managing a small business. As president, I have a front-row seat. It never ceases to amaze me how people step up when needed. I would like to give special thanks to my fellow board members for making my job so much easier. I would also thank our instructors and training directors. They have the tough day-to-day job of keeping our students happy and our programs successful.



Board Member Kristi Portogue with Moby and Ocea

I know from time to time we all can have differing opinions on issues, but when push comes to shove, we come together and do what's best for the Club. If you ever have the inclination of becoming a board member, let one of us know. We will pass your name on to our nominating committee. I hope to see you at the banquet where we can share brags, shed some tears, relate stories of friends lost and look forward to the promise of our new pups.



Board Member Ron Halling with Riley and Addie



Newfoundland

Newf (cont.)

Working Breed Profile

by Laurie Mo

Newfoundland dogs are a working breed originally used for draft work and on fishing boats. They helped pull in nets, carry lines, and are famous for their water rescue work. They are a large strong dog; sometimes called the gentle giant due to their sweet disposition.

Smart and obedient, they are devoted companions; they make great family pets and are known to be gentle with children despite their size.



Laurie Mo with her Newfs

Consistent with their working background, Newfs still do water rescue and draft/carting activities. They can earn titles in draft work and in water rescue. For the water titles, the dogs are highly trained, powerful swimmers that complete a series of tests to earn various titles. At the senior level, the dogs do a double retrieve, retrieve off a boat, take a life ring to a drowning victim and tow them to shore, take a line and tow a boat to shore, underwater

overboard. If you ever get a chance to see a water trial, you should not miss it.

Newfoundlands are versatile and they happily take part in many other activities. They are patient and affectionate at therapy dog work. They learn quickly for obedience and rally. Newfs can do tracking, agility, and even fly ball. They may not set a speed record competing with smaller dogs, but they learn quickly and enjoy being active with their favorite people.

Like most large breeds, they are prone to some specific health disorders. Reputable breeders check hearts, hips, and elbows of all breeding stock. If you are interested in the breed, there are many resources to learn more. A great starting point is the website [Newfoundland Club of America](http://www.newfoundlandclubofamerica.com), where there is a wealth of information about the breed.

There are occasional rescue animals in need of homes. Sadly, the surrender of Newfoundlands to various rescue programs has increased over the past few years. Please, contact me if you are interested in rescue efforts.

(cont. on page 3)



Newf (cont.)

(cont. from page 2)

The Newfoundland breed is not for everyone. They take up a lot of space and need regular exercise. Food, medicine, and grooming are more expensive than for a small dog. They must have training. An untrained 140-pound dog can easily knock people off their feet—even if all they want is to say, “Hello.”

Their thick double coat requires regular grooming, and they shed enormous amounts. The soft undercoat floats through the air and lands everywhere—even in the butter.

And they drool. Of course every individual is different, but some drool regularly like a running faucet. A shake of the large head sends it flying in every

Newf (cont.)

direction. It will land on the ceiling, on the furniture, on your fresh from the dry cleaners sweater, and on your guests.

That said, they are amazing dogs. Smart, brave, loyal, kind, and affectionate, they are wonderful companions.

The history of Newfoundlands is not entirely clear, but there is general agreement that it dates back to at least 1500 and possibly earlier. The longstanding bond between people and Newfs is legendary.

As an example, in 1808, at Newstead Abbey, England, the poet Lord Byron buried his beloved Newfoundland, Boatswain. On the monument, which is still standing, he inscribed (in part):

**“...BEAUTY WITHOUT VANITY,
STRENGTH WITHOUT INSOLENT,
COURAGE WITHOUT FEROCITY,
AND ALL THE VIRTUES OF MAN
WITHOUT HIS VICIOUS...”**





Acupuncture For Dogs

Veterinarians use alongside Western medicine

by Heidi Hammel, DVM, CVA

You may have recently heard about veterinary acupuncture as its popularity continues to increase. However, acupuncture has been practiced for centuries on animals. The ancient Chinese regularly performed acupuncture on horses and other farm animals, and eventually dogs, cats, and birds.

During the past thirty years, there has been tremendous growth with the use of acupuncture in animals in the United States, Canada, and Europe. It is now being utilized by an increasing number of veterinarians, alongside Western medicine, for various disease conditions.

Acupuncture has been used to treat a variety of diseases in animals, and many clinical studies have

Acupuncture (cont.)

documented its therapeutic benefits. It is safe and effective and can be used to treat orthopedic conditions, gastrointestinal disorders, immune dysfunction, neurological disorders, side effects of cancer and cancer therapies, behavioral disorders, skin disease, diminished athletic performance, and for improving the overall quality of life in many chronic diseases.

Acupuncture is the stimulation of a specific point on the body, referred to as an “acupoint.” Ancient Chinese medical philosophy believes that disease is a result of an imbalance of energy in the body. Acupuncture is believed to balance this energy, and thereby assist the body in healing disease.

As confirmed by modern Western medicine, acupuncture causes certain beneficial changes in the body. Some of these changes include acupuncture’s ability to stimulate nerves, increase blood circulation, relieve muscle spasms, reduce

(cont. on page 5)



Veterinarian and patient during acupuncture treatment



Acupuncture (cont.)

(cont. from page 4)

inflammation, and cause the release of hormones, such as endorphins (one of the body's pain control chemicals) or cortisol (a natural steroid). These chemicals, in turn, have positive effects on pain control and can generate the feeling of general well being.



Acupoints stimulated during acupuncture treatment

Acupuncture is one of the safest forms of medical treatment for animals when administered by a properly trained veterinarian. Most animals seem not to notice the needles being placed, and often become very relaxed. Side effects of acupuncture are rare, but they do exist. An animal's condition may seem worsen for up to 48 hours after a treatment. Other animals may become sleepy or lethargic for 24 hours after acupuncture. These effects are an indication that some physiological changes are developing, and they are most often followed by an improvement in the animal's condition.

The length and frequency of acupuncture treatments depends on the condition of the patient and the method of stimulation that is used by the veterinary acupuncturist. Stimulation of an individual acupuncture point may take as little as 10 seconds or as long as 30 minutes. A simple acute problem, such as a sprain, may require only one treatment, whereas more severe or chronic ailments may need several or several dozen treatments per year.

Acupuncture (cont.)

Acupuncture is not applicable or successful in all cases. It is important for the acupuncturist to know the diagnosis and be familiar with the disease process before acupuncture is initiated. It can take longer to see results with acupuncture and may require more treatments than with Western medicine; therefore a more favorable outcome can come from partnering acupuncture with Western therapies.

Although few, there are some cautions and contraindications to using acupuncture therapy. For these reasons, your veterinary acupuncturist must be a licensed veterinarian and have formal training in the practice of acupuncture for animals.

Today, we have a better understanding of acupuncture's mechanism of action and therapeutic benefits due to the rapidly increasing number of clinical trials and acupuncture research being performed. It is exciting to have another form of therapy to keep our pets healthy and to improve their quality of life. Please, consult with your veterinarian to find out if acupuncture may be beneficial to your dog or cat.





Director of Training Update

Training Update (cont.)

By Ann Decker | Director of Training

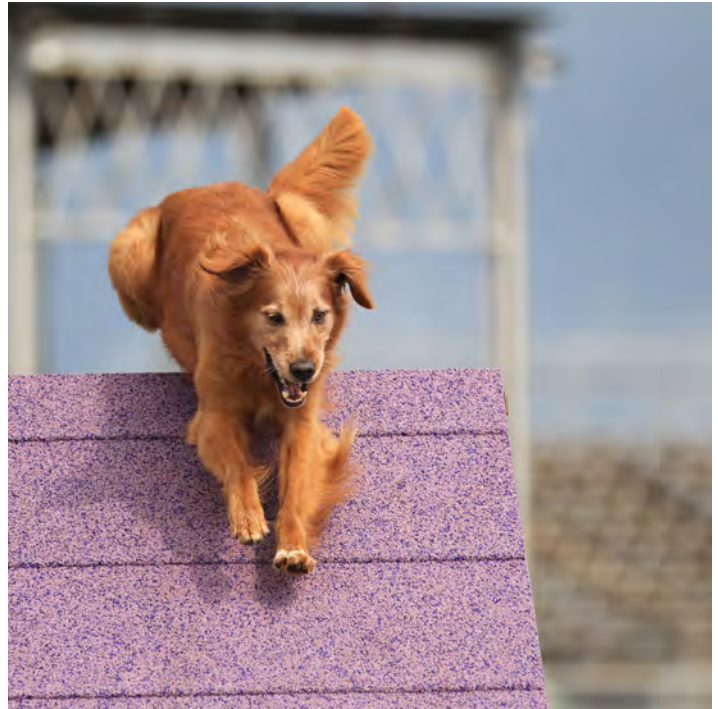
Update Winter 2011

With help from:
Ron Halling | Director of Obedience
& Greg Kirmeier | Agility Instructor

Happy Holidays! I hope everyone has had a wonderful time with their loved ones (whether canine or human or both) this season. It is time to ring in 2012 and look forward to the new year. With any new year come resolutions and many of us will resolve to train more or smarter or show more effectively.

Whatever your resolutions, take extra time to hug and enjoy your training partner. So many of our club members have lost dogs over the last year or have faced obstacles, like injuries, that make doing with our dogs what we love difficult. The holidays are a great time to reflect on how special our dogs are to us. Whether you train at a highly competitive level or for fun, time with our dogs is so precious.

The holidays are also a time to thank all of those who work tirelessly to make the obedience and agility programs at SPDTC a success. THANK YOU to each and every one of you! Thanks also to the Club's students—all of you who come each week to learn and enhance your relationship with your dogs.



My column will be short this time, which means everything is going well with the training programs. We continuously try to improve and welcome your suggestions. The possibility of new/different classes is evaluated on an ongoing basis by Ron and Camy, the directors of obedience and agility. We will be obtaining some new agility equipment, in particular a chute, due to the upcoming change in regulations requiring shorter fabric.

Both the fall obedience and agility trials were great successes. At the agility trial we had more volunteers than spots to fill and for that we are extremely grateful.

The Club does need volunteer stewards for the January obedience trial. The show will be held

(cont. on page 7)





Training Update (cont.)

Training Update (cont.)

(cont. from page 6)

Friday, Jan. 6 and will be hosting three rings. As usual, stewards will receive a coupon for a free advanced class and a free meal for helping. If interested, please contact Ron Halling at obedience@spdte.com. Volunteers are critical to any organization like SDTC. Please volunteer—learn a new skill, meet new people and have fun doing it at the same time.



The Club is hosting an exciting agility seminar with Joan Meyer on Jan. 7 and 8, 2012. This is a great opportunity to learn from a very experienced agility competitor and judge. There will be four sessions:

- Excellent Handling (Sat. 9 a.m. – noon)
- Small Dog—Big Heart (Sat. 1 – 4 p.m.)
- Which Cross, Where? (Sun. 9 a.m. – noon)
- Intermediate/Beginner Handling Skills (Sun. 1 – 4 p.m.)

For more information or registration material, contact Greg Kirmeier at GKirmeier@comcast.net or 612-803-2270.



So far the weather has been good this winter but we know that will not last. In case of snow, sleet, ice—any bad weather, remember to call the Club phone number for notification of class cancellation. That number is 651-455-2431 and is the primary source for this information.

Please, do not rely on the website because the information may not make it there. Often, a judgment about cancelling class must be made at the last minute. Also, if the weather in your neighborhood does not seem bad, but there is inclement weather in other parts of the metro area, please check the phone number. It is our goal to not cancel class, but the safety of our students and instructors will always take precedence. If a class is cancelled, it will not be rescheduled and refund are not issued. SPDTC will provide a credit for any cancelled class in the next block.

Remember to plan ahead for the SPDTC banquet on Saturday, Feb. 25. Come celebrate accomplishments and enjoy a night of friendship—with a little Club business thrown in. Watch for further details!

Wishing you all a very happy, healthy New Year!





Celebrity in Our Midst

by Ginny Hayes

We have all seen Smith and Rhonda at agility trials, working on obedience and tracking, and just hanging out. But did you know Smith, aka Rin Tin Tin XII, hobnobs with movie stars? With Rhonda Schloer Meath as his constant companion, entire entourage, and chief cook and bottle washer, Smith is indeed the product of careful breeding and a lineage that goes back to the first Rin Tin Tin born in France in 1918.



The original Rin Tin Tin made 26 films for Warner Brothers and actually helped save the studio from bankruptcy. He and Lee Duncan, his owner, traveled the U.S. on promotional tours.



Rin Tin Tin III, born in the fall of 1941, worked with Duncan to form and train some 5,000 dogs for the first U.S. Military K9 Corps. Duncan volunteered his time and talents to train both men and dogs for service during World War II.

The Adventures of Rin Tin Tin, a very popular TV series that ran from 1954 to 1959, made Rin Tin Tin the most recognized dog in the country.



In between trekking to Fargo, N.D., to run agility and Los Angeles and New York for promotional appearances, the busy German shepherd is the spokesdog for the American Humane Association (AHA), an organization focused on

Celebrity (cont.)

protecting children, pets and farm animals from abuse and neglect. Smith rang the bell at the New York Stock Exchange in honor of the hero dogs at ground zero on 9/11.

This special dog has shaken hands with Whoopi Goldberg, walked the red carpet with Prince Lorenzo Borghese of the Italian noble family, and stood on Henry Winkler's star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame.



To find out more about the German shepherd breed and Rin Tin Tin, visit the website [Rin Tin Tin](http://RinTinTin.com).



From the beginning and directly from Lee Duncan Jannettia Propps Bodyguard Kennels the continuation of the lineage and name of RIN TIN TIN is preserved and sets before you with this amazing canine icon and impeccable Legacy



Braggs & Wags

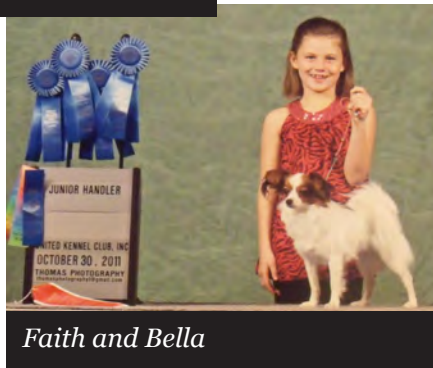
Braggs (cont.)

Carol Lauren-Schmidt & Casanova and Bella

Well, we had another super year. My guys never cease to amaze me. Alright, surprise me is more of the word I should use to describe. Casanova is always the “Man” in my house. Well, except for my husband. This year my goal was to make it into the UKC Open All Star and we were doing very well, then we lost our sits. I know how frustrating that can be.



Casanova



Faith and Bella

Oh, well, I can't complain, as we did keep pretty busy earning three of the top UKC Rally titles, four higher level Weight Pull titles, UKC and NADSR, three Obedience titles, three Therapy Dog titles, and a UKC Lure Coursing title. He ended up # 6 in UKC Breed Top Ten, and # 33 in UKC Novice All Stars.

What happened next was we started showing in Rally as well and suddenly he made it into the Rally Level 3 All Stars. Then my little bred-by “Bella” decided she was going to outshine him, and after only four shows made it into the Rally Level 1 All Stars. She earned me some very nice

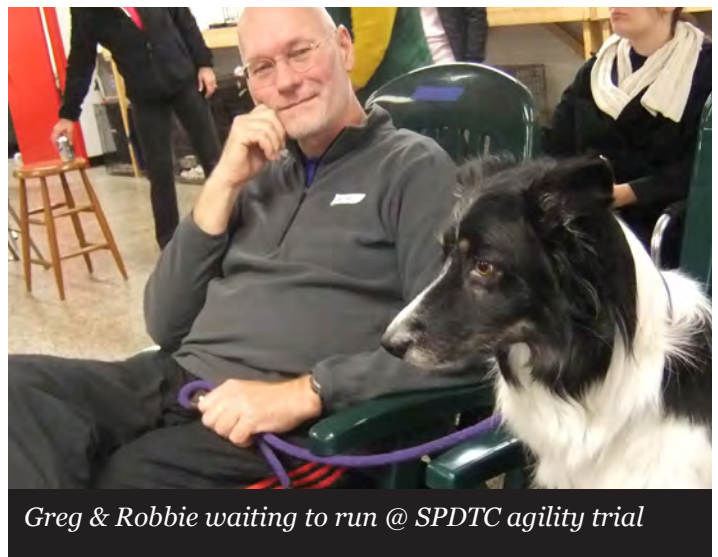
scores at our UKC Gateway National Show, two 100s and a 99. She is a worker. I started training in Obedience and Rally early in April. We got our Star Puppy certificate, then earned a UKC Conformation Champion title in May.

In June she passed her CGC certification, and in September she passed her TDI certification. On Oct. 14 she earned her AKC Rally Novice title placing in all three legs in the B class. Then for UKC on Oct. 29, she earned her Rally Level 1 title, again in the B class. Casanova also earned a UKC Agility title and both are training at SPDTC in Agility. Yes, it was a “Very Super Year.”

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Carol Mehlhoff & Indie earn MACH5



Greg & Robbie waiting to run @ SPDTC agility trial



November Agility Trial

Agility Trial (cont.)

SPDTC had a very successful trial in November. Unfortunately, we had so many entries many would-be participants did not get in. We had a new judge to the area, Heather Dickinson, who proved exceptionally popular. Thanks to her merry smile and smooth courses, many agility enthusiasts would like to see her back in Minnesota.

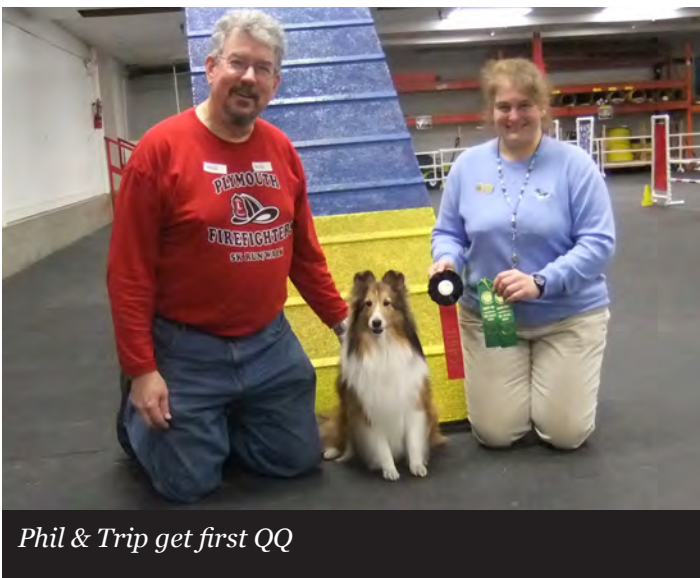
Gary Cook had a lot to celebrate with his Standard Poodles. He brought a MACH cake for one and received a MACH on the other. Congrats to Gary, Zoe and Monte. Lois Eid also got a MACH on her powerful Rottweiler, Usher. A big thank you to the committee for getting the trial up and running, but more importantly a big thank you to all the volunteers who gave their time. It's been said a hundred times: **"No volunteers, no trial."**



Gary Cook & Zoe earn MACH



Lois Eid & Usher earn MACH



Phil & Trip get first QQ



Mary Bente with Jack, who retires with EX JWW title

2011 SPDTC Awards Order Form
USE ONE FORM PER DOG (turn in by Feb 1, 2012)

Name: _____ Phone: _____
 _____ (owner/trainers/handlers –Specify Which)

Address: _____ Email: _____

_____ Membership Date: _____

There are two methods for submitting awards/orders forms:

1. Mail to SPDTC Annual Awards, P O Box 2443, Inver Grove Hts, MN 55076
2. Deposit in mail box of Marcia Koukkari at the club (near front desk).

LIST ALL TITLES EARNED IN 2011 – Circle the THREE title pins you want SPDTC to award for this dog. You may purchase additional pins for titles earned. In the box at the bottom of this form, list any pins you wish to buy in addition to the three that SPDTC will award. Additional pins are \$10.00 each.

Dog's Name		Eligible for Dual Performance or Championship Award	
Venue	Agility Titles	Obedience/Rally Titles	Special: HIT,VCD, win at National Event
AKC			
UKC			
USDAA			
NADAC			
CPE			
CKC			

Volunteer participation for at least two SPDTC events, programs or projects in 2010 is required to receive awards.

My Volunteer service in 2011 includes:

1. _____
2. _____

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Your membership allows for up to three pins per dog for titles earned. You may purchase any additional title pins you want at the cost of \$8 per pin. I wish to purchase these additional title pins for my dog.

List: _____

Title pins & Quantities Purchased: _____ X \$10. = _____ Total Enclosed

**St Paul Dog Training Club's Annual Meeting
and banquet will be held on
Saturday February 25, 2012.**

See Below for details, including costs and times.

Annual Membership Dues

Membership dues are payable between October 1, 2010 and the annual meeting date (which is February 25, 2011) for the current membership year. If you joined the club on or after October 1, you **DO NOT** need to pay dues until 2013. Everyone else owes dues in the amount of \$15 for a single membership, or \$20 for a family membership. Note: Club policy states that junior handlers and their parents must purchase a family membership. Please fill out the membership application and send in with your payment to the club.

Annual Meeting and Awards Banquet Reservations

When: Saturday, February 25, 2012

Cocktail Hour: 5:30 – 6:30 P.M.
(Cash Bar)

Where: Joseph's Grill
140 South Wabasha
Saint Paul, MN 55107

Buffet Dinner: 6:30 – 7:30 P.M.
Meeting: 7:30 – 9:30 P.M.
Price: \$20.00 per person

Reservations are due by Wednesday Noon, February 22nd. Please Contact Marge if you have any questions (651) 699-4696

Name(s) _____ Number of People Coming _____

_____ Total \$ enclosed @ \$20.00 per person _____

Address: _____ Phone # _____

_____ Email: _____

Mail form and Check payable to SPDTC to:

Marge Peters
262 S Saratoga St
St Paul Mn 55105-2436



St. Paul Dog Training Club, established in 1953, is licensed by the American Kennel Club.

St Paul Dog Training Club
219 13th Ave South
South St Paul, MN 55075

Mailing Address:
P O Box 2443
Inver Grove Heights, MN 55076

Membership Application

Date: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____

Other Phone: _____ E-Mail: _____

Single Membership \$15.00 Family Membership \$20.00

Family Members: _____

In which events would you be willing to work? Obedience Rally Agility

Do you have a special talent (plumbing, carpentry, and painting) that you are willing to help at the club with? _____
