



Volume 15 Number 2 June 2008
Columbia Agility Team 2008 Board of Directors

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NW Agility League

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Van Dyke Barn, Forest Grove:
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Equipment Manager

Kyle Watson, zootfish@aol.com

New Membership Coordinator

Pat Weinkauf, homekeeprs@aol.com

CAT is pleased to again sponsor the NW Agility League for the 9th year, starting the week of October 27th and running through the week, ending Saturday, December 13th. During this 7-week period we will run one Standard Agility Course and one Game Course each week, with teams competing for the highest cumulative score. The special category For Exhibition Only (see below) will again be featured.

League teams are made up of four dogs/handlers, each dog jumping at the height of their choice. To join the league a handler must have entered an agility trial and the dog must be able to do all obstacles safely (see For Exhibition Only exceptions, below). This is a great way to bring on a new dog or if you are just starting, meet other club members. This will help you get started in agility and of course, if you are an old hand, have some agility fun and help beginners. To form a team, one of the two originating team members must have, at some time, handled a dog at a high level of any agility sanctioning organization. The remaining 2 team members will be drawn at random from a list of participants that want to be on a team.

The rules and fault system are especially designed for league play, the best three out of four runs will count for the team score in Standard and Games. If you have a poor run, it will be dropped from the team's total. Standard courses are taken from all venues and designed for the Intermediate level, the ideas for Games are taken from various sources. The courses, rules, forms, etc. will be posted on CAT's web site, allowing participants to review and practice the courses, although practice is not allowed on the actual course, the day of the event. We will be using a special "announcements only" email list, to keep everyone informed on scores and any updated information. You will be automatically subscribed to the list at registration, unless you choose not to, and the list will be terminated at the end of league.

For Exhibition Only, any handler may enter the league on a space available basis and may or may not have previously entered a trial. Exhibition handlers will run as individuals and the dogs will not be judged or scored. The dog should be able to perform all obstacles safely or may skip an obstacle. All other league rules apply.

Sign ups will begin on-line September 1st, by going to CAT's web site <http://www.columbiaagility.org/> Teams will be drawn at the October CAT General Meeting (TBD) and participants will be notified by email. The cost is \$26 for the 7 weeks and payment should be made at your first League event.

Scheduled locations, days and time are subject to change. If you have questions or suggestions, contact Dwight@TheCashes.com

CAT's Wilsonville Barn

Tuesday 10AM to Noon, 5 teams 20 handlers

October 28 to Dec. 9, 2008

Saturday 9AM to 11AM, 6 teams 24 handlers

November 1 to Dec. 13, 2008

CAT's Forest Grove Barn

Friday 7PM to 9PM, 5 teams 20 handlers **October**

31 to Dec. 12, 2008

Mary Crittendon's Barn in Vancouver

Friday 7PM to 9 PM, 6 teams 24 handlers **Octo-**

ber 31 to Dec. 12, 2008

Cash's Arena in Sherwood

Thursday 10AM to Noon, 5 teams 20 handlers

October 30 to Dec. 11, 2008

Thursday 7PM to 9PM, 5 teams 20 handlers

October 30 to Dec. 11, 2008

Cup awards have been approved for both the Columbia Cup and Northwest Cup.

Columbia Cup – 1st thru 3rd place ribbons for each of the following categories: Novice Small Dog, Novice Large Dog, Open Small Dog, Open Large Dog, Elite Small Dog & Elite Large Dog. Overall cup award and \$65 trial entry coupon to: Best in Trial Small Dog, Best in Trial Large Dog & Best in Trial Veteran Dog. Small dogs are dogs jumping 4", 8" and 12" and Large dogs are dogs jumping 16" and above. All awards are based on fewest faults first and then fastest time of the average of the four Regular runs.

Northwest Cup – 1st thru 3rd place ribbons for each of the following categories: Starter Mini Dog, Pl Mini Dog, Starter Open Dog, Pl Open Dog, Advanced Mini Dog, Pll Mini Dog, Advanced Open Dog, Pll Open Dog, Master Mini Dog, Plll Mini Dog, Master Open Dog & Plll Open Dog. Overall cup award and \$65 trial entry coupon to: Best in Trial-Open Dog, Best in Trial-Mini Dog, Best in Trial-Performance Open Dog & Best in Trial-Performance Mini Dog. All awards are based on the combined results of the two Standard runs.

2008 CAT Trials

June 27th, 28th & 29th, 2008

USDAA Regionals @ Canby, OR

Trial Chair: Barbara Persson

Aug 16th & 17th, 2008

CPE @ Memorial Park, Wilsonville, OR

Trial Chair: Cheryl Huffman

Sept 6th & 7th, 2008

NADAC Columbia Cup @ Ridgefield, WA

Trial Chair: Barbara Stone

October 11th & 12th, 2008

USDAA NW Cup @ Ridgefield, WA

Trial Chair: Tara Choate

CAT Library

The CAT library will be "weeded out" and unused or old items donated to a public library. Although Tara Choate has moved the library from her store, she is willing to continue as librarian. Tara has requested an increased budget for new items and Mike Chapman is investigating the use of a service for shipping and returning items.

Meetings

Board meetings:

September 9, 6:30pm

Village Inn, Bridgeport Village

October 15, 7pm

Village Inn, Mall 205

Columbia Agility Team CPE Trial, Wilsonville Park

Cole Porter wrote that “Only mad dogs and Englishmen go out in the noonday sun” but he didn’t know about the dedicated agility dogs and owners who showed up in two of the hottest days of summer to participate and excel in their sport. Three competitors got their C-ATCH bars and from all reports the day was enjoyable despite the heat.



Barb Persson and Emma with
Judge Art Malott



Barb Watson and Cole get their
bar from Tanya Sacks



Angela Butsch and Nikki
and proud instructor Cheryl Huffman

CAT USDAA Regional under discussion

There has been lengthy discussion at both the Board and General meetings about the future of the USDAA Regional which for many years has been held under CAT auspices and with CAT labor. The effort is extraordinary and those who have carried it for many years want at least a break and perhaps for others to permanently take over the running of the Regional or to abandon it in favor of a local trial. The following is from the minutes of the general meeting discussion after one proposal was made for its retention as a Regional.

Barbara Persson is stepping down from chairing the Regional. Red Hot Rovers (Seattle) has expressed interest in hosting a Regional. There was an AgileCAT announcement posted requesting that anyone interested in major trial positions for 2009 step up. Janice Tsuchida and Karla Forte would like to see the Regional continue to be held by CAT. Red Hot Rovers had been planning to “pay well” for qualified workers. Janice and Karla would rather keep the Regional here locally if many CAT members would be recruited to help Red Hot Rovers anyway. The following is a summary of their proposal submitted to the Board at the July 16, 2008 CAT Board Meeting:

Pay the Trial Secretary (TS), Trial Chair, and Scorekeeper. The going rate in the area for an AKC TS is \$1.50 to \$2.00 per run. Trial Chair to be paid \$1.00 per dog per trial. This would be total for the Chair position, even if the position is shared. TS to be split to two positions: Before trial duties TS and During/After trial duties TS. Each TS to receive \$1.50 per entry. Chief Scorer to have job expanded to take some of the burden off the TS (to include taking care of accumulator sheets, scribe sheets, etc. before the trial). Scorer to be paid twice the present rate, bringing the total to \$130.00 in CAT Bucks. Dam Team—two scorers—to be paid a flat fee of \$100.00 each. Remainder of workers to be paid as covered in present CAT policies. The total, based on an entry of 340 dogs, would be \$1,700.00 to \$2,000.00 added to the Regional budget. Could use cash or CAT Bucks, but need the option of cash if a major position is held by a non CAT member.

There is no committee or budget yet, just this proposal.

Member Discussion included:

Marilyn Watson: What percentage of entrants for the last couple of Regionals were CAT members?

Tanya Sacks: Is it fair to only compensate the “key positions” in this way?

Carol Hibbard: Originally, the Regional was going to be a joint venture with WAG, CAT, and RAT. What about having each club be fully responsible for the entire staffing and running of one ring? Maybe it is time for CAT to take a break from hosting the Regional and alternate the Regional with area clubs.

Tara Choate: Based on the trouble she is having staffing her trial, she does not think that money will solve the problem. It is a nice proposal but she thinks we should give up the Regional for 2009 and make the 2009 test a local qualifier.

Dick Watson: In years past, we have appealed to other clubs to step up. Individuals have stepped up but NOT the clubs. He feels like we need a break. Dick proposes alternating the Regional with other clubs. He is not averse to the proposal to pay for key positions. Later, Dick asked if there has been any direct contact between CAT and Red Hot Rovers. The answer is no and we are not sure what date they are wanting. Dick recommends that CAT contact Red Hot Rovers about alternating the Regional.

Paula Cash: The Regional brings in a lot of “professional” players (as opposed to “recreational” players). Do we want to consider CAT to “bump up” to a professional level as opposed to a local level club?

Barbara Stone: Noted that she used to volunteer for a day to score (while not having a dog entered) but that she no longer volunteers for this duty because of the attitude shown by the “professional” competitors.

Dick Watson: Noted that the Regional also brings in a lot of the nation’s upper level competitors to inspire locals.

Diane Gould: Would like to know if we could make the mentorship program (for trial committee duties) more formal.

Jim Hibbard: Has Red Hot Rovers contacted CAT? (Barb P. spoke with some of their members at the Regional.) When will CAT make the decision?

(The Board will take all of the information provided and e-mail back and forth for a decision shortly.)

If we give up the Regional, will we be able to keep the same dates for a local qualifier?

Tanya Sacks: Taking a break may open the eyes of others in the Pacific Northwest about how much work is involved in hosting a USDAA Regional.

Lori Sage: Would love to keep the Regional, but thinks that CAT members need a break

Jim Hibbard: During his travels as a USDAA judge in California, has not overheard any moaning/groaning from competitors. They all pull together and help each other out. Not sure what is the difference in the Pacific Northwest. Also noted that out of town competitors this year and in years past have really enjoyed the camping site.

Tanya Sacks: Summary of responses to survey on AgileCAT—6 responses supported hosting a local qualifier; 3 responses supported keeping the Regional; a couple of responses were fine either way; a couple of responses were burnt out. There were a variety of responses regarding the payment of key positions: some didn’t care about whether or not the positions were paid; some thought that CAT is a volunteer club and if we don’t have the volunteers to support any agility trial, it is a sign that maybe we shouldn’t hold that trial.