
The *Catalyst*

Vol.12 No. 2 The Columbia Agility Team April 2005

Calendar

CAT Board Meetings (7 PM)

Apr 12 Elmers, Clackamas

May 11 Elmers, Delta Park

CAT General Meetings (7 PM)

Apr 24 Elmers, Clackamas

May 15 Busters, Tigard

Seminars

Jul 21-22, Jul 23-24

Susan Salo Jumping Seminar

For information, contact:

Sarah Kerridge kridge@airspd.net

Janice Tsuchida ga42@aol.com

Agility Trials

*Apr 16-17 Rainier Agility Team
USDAA Agility Test, Elma, WA*

*Apr 23-24 Extreme Agility Team
NADAC Trial, Auburn, WA*

*Apr 29-May 1 Columbia Agility Team
NADAC Trial, Ridgefield, WA*

*May 28-30 Mega-Dogs NADAC,
Woodinville, WA*

*Jun 4-5 Bend Area Agility Dogs
USDAA, Bend, OR*

Agility Trials (Cont'd)

*Jun 18-19 Sno-King Agility USDAA
Agility Test, Monroe, WA*

*Jun 24-26 Rainier Agility Team
NADAC/ASCA Trial and Fido
Follies, Lacy, WA*

*Jul 9-10 Willamette Agility Group
NADAC/ASCA, Newport, OR*

*Jul 15-17 Columbia Agility Team
USDAA Sanctioned Agility
Test, DAM Tournament, Steeple
Chase and Regional Grand Prix.
Vancouver Lake Park, Vancouver,
WA*

CAT Fun Matches

May 7, Forest Grove Barn

Jun 4, Forest Grove Barn

Jul 2, Forest Grove Barn

Aug 6, Forest Grove Barn

Schedule/Fees for Forest Grove Fun

Matches: 9:00 AM - Noon,

Beginners/Novice; 12:30 PM

- 3:00 PM, Open/Advanced/Elite/

Masters. \$3.00/Run, 2 runs for \$5.

In this issue

<i>January 15, 2005 Board Meeting Minutes</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>February 15, 2005 Board Meeting Minutes</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>February 20, 2005 General Meeting Minutes</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>How to Handle a Corgi</i>	<i>11</i>
<i>A Foot-Target Board That Clicks</i>	<i>13</i>
<i>Request for Agility Nationals Stipend</i>	<i>15</i>

Columbia Agility Team

Board of Directors

President

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Karla Forte
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Secretary

Karen McAllister
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Training Director

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Membership Coordinator

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Seminar Committee

Janice Tsuchida
Venita Barraque
Jennifer Evans
Daisy Peel
Rob Waters

Financial Committee

Dwight Cash
Kathy (KC) Carnes
Karla Forte
Barb Stone

CATalyst Editor

Matt Sachs
mattsachs@comcast.net

January 15, 2005 Board Meeting Minutes

Matt Sachs' home

Called to order at 7:00 PM
Minutes of the December 2004 Board were reviewed and approved pending changes.

Members present: Matt Sachs, Wendy Ware, Karla Forte, Kitty Ware, and Mary Crittendon.

Substitutes: Venita Barraque for Janice Tsuchida, Karen McAlister for Lisa Kline.

Absent: Paige Pierce, Barb Stone

Report of the President: Following agenda

Report of the Vice President: The annual meeting and board elections will be 01/30/05 at the Clackamas Denny's.

Report of the Secretary: No new members applied at the time of this meeting. Can be approved via email.

Report of the Treasurer: A balance for checking and investment were given. A base dollar amount will be kept in the checking account. Karla is working on a process to facilitate moving funds between the investment and checking account.

Report of the Training Director: Classes will restart the week of January 17th.

Forest Grove barn: Both foundation classes are full. Beginning I has 5 students and Beginning II has 2 students at this time. Venita Barraque will offer an Advanced class in the spring.

Wilsonville: All classes are full.

Old Business:

Trial Review: The July trial is closed with a positive balance. The Columbia Cup is closed on a positive balance. The Black Cat is close to closing and will not have a positive balance. The November CPE trial is closed. A charity contribution is pending. The NW Cup initial numbers were submitted a positive balance is expected.

Upcoming trial review: The February 25-27 trial opening is Jan. 18. The April 1-3 CPE trial is on track. The April 29-30, May 1st trial is underway, so far there are two judges assigned. Karla Forte and Venita Barraque will chair the July '05 trial. 4 days have been reserved at Vancouver Lake Park, but there is no camping on site. Standard runs on Friday, Performance Grand Prix on Sat and Sunday will be tournament events. The September 05 trial is no longer in conflict with EAT. Lynda King will chair. Jim Hibbard to provide an excel spreadsheet for scoring.

Seminar Update: Kathy Keats 2/19 – 2/21 at Mary Crittendon's barn. Some working spots are still available. Susan Salo seminar is July 21-24th at the Forest Grove Barn with two 2-day sessions with 3 groups per session. Working spots are \$110.00.

Agility League Update: League is going well. There was an instance of dog aggression that was handled well by Dwight Cash and Judy Mace.

Barn Equipment: Dwight is

looking into reported equipment issues at the barns. A new tunnel may be needed at Forest Grove. Kitty Ware will verify and email the board.

Barb Stone is putting the National stipend procedure together. The plan is to have a form available on the CAT website and a 60 day limit to submit. The stipend is available per team (dog and handler).

Matt Sachs is the new CATalyst editor.

New Business:

Clark County Fair grounds will be under new management soon. Can we discuss the quality of the food vendor with them? CAT information booth at trials. Can staffing for this be added to the workers schedule? CAT insurance policy. Karla to have Nick Henderson to review in regards to coverage for outside workers. What would it take to move the January trial to March (weather issues 2 years in a row)?

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 PM

Respectfully Submitted by: Karen McAlister

February 15, 2005 Board Meeting Minutes

Fuddruckers, Lake Oswego

Called to order at 7:10 PM

Members present: Lisa Klein, Wendy Ware, Karla Forte, Kitty Ware, Karen McAlister, Paige Pierce, Barb Stone, Heather Christenson, Tanya Sacks. Also attending Barb Perrson and Dwight Cash.

Minutes of the January 2005 Board and were reviewed and approved

pending changes.

Report of the President: Following agenda

Report of the Vice President: Board and General Meeting dates and locations were set:

Board Meetings: 02/15/05–Fuddruckers, Lake Oswego
03/16/05–Garlic Onion, Wilsonville

04/12/05–Clackamas, Elmer's
05/11/05–Delta Park, Elmer's

General Meetings: 02/20/05–Tigard, Busters 03/20/05–Delta Park Elmer's 04/24/05–Clackamas Elmer's

05/15/05–Tigard, Busters

Report of the Secretary: The following new members were voted in and "Welcome to CAT":

Vicky Teshera, Judy Carroll, Linda R. Farrell, Carol Miller, Angela Proffitt

Report of the Treasurer: A balance for checking and investment were given. A base dollar amount will be kept in the checking account.

Report of the Training Director: Spring classes will begin March 21, 2005. Some current classes still have 2 to 4 weeks left. Lori Beck will be teaching a Tuesday foundation class at the Larsen Barn.

Old Business:

Barb Stone presented a new form to receive a stipend for attending Nationals. The stipend amount is \$100.00, the form should be sent to the club Treasurer, Karla Forte, within 90 days of the event. To qualify the event may not be a breed

national, must be outside of Oregon/Washington, and the applicant must be a full CAT member.

Karla Forte presented a reimbursement form. The form will be in the next CATalyst and is also available on the CAT website under membership.

Membership Committee is changing. Kathy McDaniel and Cheryl Huffman are working together to ensure a smooth transition as Cheryl begins handling this function. Lisa Klein to work with Cheryl Huffman to write out guidelines for incoming members and the membership committee.

Matt Sachs is the new CATalyst editor.

Seminar Update:

Kathy Keats is presenting this coming weekend at Mary Crittendon's barn in Vancouver. Begins at 9:00 am.

Susan Salo seminar is July 21-24th at Forest Grove with two 2-day sessions with 3 groups per session. Working spots are \$110.00.

Past Trial Review:

The November 15, 2004 CPE is closed with a positive balance.

The Black Cat is closed with a negative balance.

The January 2005 NW Cup has a positive balance.

Upcoming trial review:

The February 25-27 filled quickly. The ribbons have arrived and the worker's schedule has been sent to Dick Watson.

The April 1-3 CPE trial is on track.

The April 30, May 1st NADAC trial is underway. There will not be Friday night games.

The July 15, 16, 17 2005 USDAA trial will be chaired by Karla Forte and Venita Barraque. Jeannie Rice is working on the Premium. Daisy Peel submitted a proposal for staffing the score table.

The September 2005 trial is no longer in conflict with EAT. Lynda King will chair. The October 15 – 16, 2005 Black Cat USDAA trail will be chaired by Barb White. There will not be games.

New Business:

Financial Committee Report given by Dwight Cash. The 2005 budget was presented and approved with the exception of the purchase of a 4th set of digital timers.

Karla to review CAT's insurance policy with Nick Henderson.

Review and revise the By-Laws and Policies for 2005: Any changes will need a vote of the general membership.

Policy Changes:

Dog aggression form will be created and used to promote consistency in the handling of this type of issue. Karen McAlister will create a form.

Barn Rental agreement form should be put in the annual membership renewal form.

Equipment Rental. The electronic timer rental fee should be increased to \$200.00. Mileage is 0.40 cents per mile.

Constitution and By-Law changes:
Page 5, add preparing the taxes for the previous (or tax year) the treasurer was in office

Barn Issues:

Barb Perrson proposed trying renting the Larsen barn for half an hour slots instead of 1 hour. 1-hour slots would still be available for those members who wanted that amount of time. Barb has created a spreadsheet to help facilitate this change. This may increase rentals. The board agreed to try the plan for 3 months. Lisa Klein will contact the Larsen Barn manager, René Wilson.

Larsen Barn size issues were discussed. The barn is small and the broken equipment around the edges adds to the problem. Can a clean out day be scheduled and would a dumpster need to be rented?

A workday at Forest Grove is also necessary.

An associate member can rent barn time.

Clark County Fair grounds:

The Fairgrounds will be under new management soon. We do not have any influence over the food vendor.

Trial Dates: A February 4-5 date has opened up. Would we want to move the January trial?

The May trail would move to April 22/23 in 2006 and April 21/22 in 2007. These are Clark County dates and there isn't much room for discussion.

Meeting adjourned at 9:37 PM

Respectfully Submitted by: Karen McAlister

**February 20, 2005
General Meeting Minutes**

Tigard Busters

Called to order at 7:04 PM

Board members present: Lisa Klein, Karla Forte, Wendy Ware, Kitty Ware, Karen McAlister

Report of the President: Following agenda

Cheryl Huffman introduced prospective members who were present at the meeting.

General announcements:

–Library on site, many new items are available

–Danglers

–Attendance sheet being passed around

Lisa Klein presented an appreciation gift to Matt Sachs for all of his work and dedication to CAT as the President for the past two years.

Report of the Vice President Wendy Ware.

Board Meetings: 02/15/05–Fuddruckers, Lake Oswego
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General Meetings: 02/20/05–Tigard, Busters
03/20/05–Delta Park Elmer's

04/24/05–Clackamas Elmer's
05/15/05–Tigard, Busters

Report of the Treasurer – Karla

Forte. A balance for checking and investment were given Karla had also prepared several graphs of CAT's income and expenses.

Report of the Training Director – Kitty Ware. Classes are nearing their end. Spring classes should begin the week of March 21, 2005. Forest Grove will have an intermediate class and Lori Beck will be teaching a foundation class at Larsen Barn.

Report of the Secretary: New members voted in at the 2/15/05 board meeting are:

Vicky Teshera and "Trout" and "Ruby"; Judy Carroll and "Maggie"; Linda R. Farrell and "Benny"; Carol Miller and "Spike"; Angela Proffitt and "Nikki."

Seminar Update:

Kathy Keats seminar has audit spots available. Auditors can register at the door.

Susan Salo will be here July 21 through July 24. She will have two sessions. Session 1 on July 21/22 and Session 2 on July 23/24. There are 36 open spots, the 1st session is for beginners and the second session is for intermediate (meaning those who have had her beginning session in the past). A working spot for this seminar will be included in the February and May NADAC trial worker's raffles. Other spots will be given on a first come first served basis with preference given to CAT members in good standing.

Kathy Leggett will be here Sept. 10 and 11th with an emphasis on small dogs. This seminar will conflict with

the Columbia Cup, but this was the only weekend Kathy had available this year.

Trial Review:

The '04 Black CAT is closed with a negative balance. All other 2004 trials ended with positive balances. The February '05 NADAC trial has filled. Over 2000 runs are scheduled at this trial.

The April 1 thru 3rd CPE trial is on track and hopes to have 2 local judges certified, CAT members Cheryl Huffman and Jim Hibbard.

The April 29-30, May 1st trial is facing NADAC rules changes and there will not be Friday night games. Saturday will have Touch-n-go and Sunday will have Tunnelers.

Venita Barraque and Karla Forte discussed that the July '05 USDA trial will be a regional, with standard runs for Championship and Performance on Friday, tournament runs will be on Saturday and Sunday, *i.e.* Grand Prix and Steeplechase rounds 1 and 2 and the DAM tournament runs.

The Sept. '05 Columbia Cup is no longer in conflict with EAT's trial. Lynda King is the chair.

Old business:

Vancouver Lake (July USDA regional site) does not have camping facilities. However, several RV parks are nearby off of Interstate-5.

Matt Sachs will be the new editor of the CATalyst.

Barb Stone presented a Nationals



Images from the February CAT NADAC trial; clockwise from top left: Erin Hildahl and King; Kristine Gunter's Rugby; Jim Hibbard and Boomerang; NATCHs for Debbie Mason and Wazzu; Venita Barraque and Nop; Berklee Robins and Sasha . Images ©agilityimages.com

reimbursement form to the new board for approval. The board approved the loan pending minor changes. The stipend amount is \$100.00, the form should be sent to the club Treasurer, Karla Forte, within 90 days of the event. To qualify the event may not be a breed national, must be outside of Oregon/Washington, and the applicant must be a full CAT member.

CAT's Membership Committee is changing. Kathy McDaniel and Cheryl Huffman are working together to ensure a smooth transition as Cheryl begins handling this function.

New Business:

Clark County Fairground is undergoing management changes. Lisa Klein will keep CAT apprised as she has more information. She knows the maintenance crew is reapplying for their positions. A complaint was made as to the food vendor. When the management changes are clearer, CAT can try to negotiate on this point. At the Jan. '05 trial, there were power problems for the RV campers. Apparently breakers were tripped leaving RV's without power. This hasn't been an issue in the past, but this year's colder weather may have been a factor.

CAT Gear. Sue Woodson has streamlined the process. Members can order items directly from B-West. This information will soon be available on the website. Ordering directly will speed up delivery times to members and significantly reduce CAT paperwork.

Forest Grove barn fun matches

will begin in March and run thru November.

CAT Policy and By-Law recommended changes by the board:

Policy Changes:

Dog aggression form will be created and used to promote consistency in the handling of this type of issue. Karen McAlister will create a form.

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Workdays need to be scheduled for both the Larsen and Forest Grove barns.

Trial Dates:

A February 4-5 date has opened up. Would we want to move the January trial?

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April 22/23 in 2006 and April 21/22 in 2007. These are Clark County dates and there isn't much room for discussion.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 PM

Respectfully Submitted by:

Karen McAlister

How to Handle a Corgi

Kristine Gunter

KandEGunter@hotmail.com

www.cardigan-corgis.com

Up until last year, one could have correctly observed that there are just two different handling strategies used by most agility exhibitors. The first strategy is the simple, 'short and sweet' plan, most often employed by owners of ultra-fast, speed-demon dogs. Owners of these maniacal pups typically use one-syllable words to guide their dogs through the course; after all, with speed-breeds, the handler may have barely enough time to finish a single command before the dog is already at the next obstacle. Simplicity is a necessity and there is no time to insert any extraneous verbiage between commands. 'Short and sweet' handler commands are to the point and usually spoken with a sense of authority: "Jump. Tire. Chute."

The second type of handling strategy is known as 'cheerleading'. The idea behind this technique is that some dogs may require a bit of coaxing to stay motivated enough to get through a course. Handlers using this strategy will mix a few encouraging words into their string of commands such that a typical 'cheerleading' handler may say,

"Jump...good jump...go tire...yes...good dog," as they guide their pup around the ring.

In 2003 (the first year Riley was entered in an agility trial), an additional, completely different handling strategy was added to the annals of agility history. This third, seldom-used technique has been dubbed the 'auctioneer' style of handling and it involves using a veritable barrage of words, in conjunction with exaggerated physical motions, to try and guide a disgruntled dog through an entire agility course.

I am proud to say I not only invented, by also perfected, the auctioneer handling strategy, and will now present it here in the hopes that handlers of other seriously under-motivated, overtly-distracted, slower-than-molasses dwarf breeds of dogs might be able to benefit from my experience.

I toyed with the idea of teaching agility to Riley when I discovered the 2003 Cardigan Welsh Corgi National Specialty show was going to be held in Portland. Riley was a multi-sport dropout at the time, having tried, and failed at, obedience, rally, tracking, herding and freestyle. The list of potential sports we could participate in was growing painfully short. In desperation, I began teaching him the finer points of weaving and teetering so I could enter him in agility.

Riley, it is worth mentioning, would really rather spend his days lounging on the back of the sofa at home as opposed to having to actually get up

and move. In fact, it's probably safe to say Riley would prefer getting a bath, having his toenails trimmed and going to see the vet all more than he would prefer running and jumping.

Nonetheless, I began teaching him the agility obstacles and introduced him to the 'cheerleading' style of handling. "Riley! Jump! You will be such a good boy if you Jump! Good Jump!" garnered some response, but he still rarely had more than one foot off the ground at any given time. My next step was to make the cheerleading approach a bit more interactive; whenever I said, "Jump" I would actually leap up into the air, hoping that my own energetic approach to agility handling would motivate Riley to move just a wee bit faster.

Next, I added a little move known as the "windmill maneuver". As Riley approached each obstacle, I would start frantically swinging my arms around in large circles to try and give him the illusion of forward motion. (Fellow spectators would later ask, after seeing me execute the windmill in competition, if I was actually trying to create a wind current that would push my big-butted boy along).

Slowly, an entirely new, elaborate handling method evolved. My plan? To bombard the poor boy with a slew of verbal commands, physical cues and exaggerated body motions such that he would run through the course just to try and get away from me. A typical 30-second set of commands might sound something like this:

"A here, lil' RILEY, lil' RILEY,

lil' RILEY-RILEY bug...go JUMP, go JUMP, go JUMP, and a here we GO, a here we GO, a here we gotta GO, gotta GO on those STUBBY lil' legs, a go JUMP, go JUMP, go JUMP, Good BOY! Now you gotta GO, gotta GO, gotta GO, GO, GO through the TIRE, through the TIRE, through the TIRE, gotta GO through the TIRE, and you made it through the tire, GOOD BOY, now we gotta GO, gotta RUN, gotta MAKE IT to the next JUMP..."

And that's just to get him through the first two obstacles of the course.

The good news about my unique style of handling is that it provides a complete aerobic workout for me; at the end of a course run with Riley, I am typically gasping for every available oxygen molecule in the immediate atmosphere. The bad news is that 'auctioneer handling' seems to have done nothing to improve Riley's attitude towards the sport of agility.

So, it's back to the drawing board to develop yet another handling strategy; I'm already working on the 'bribery' technique. I can almost hear it now..."Here we go RILEY bug...do a JUMP and get a COO-KIE...get a COO-KIE...make it to the end, to the end, to the end of the course and get a HAM-BUR-GER, HAM-BUR-GER, a really tasty HAM-BUR-GER..."

[Previously published in Front and Finish]

A Foot-Target Board That Clicks

Justine Merrill

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www.justine.leo.net

Last November, *Clean Run* magazine issued a special focus issue on training contacts. It was an eye opening magazine special, the information we have on training contacts has changed so much in the last five years. We used to think the only contact for the A Frame or Dog Walk we could train was a Nancy Gyes style two foot on two foot off contact.

Since I have one dog who's A-Frame contact has been at issue the last seven years, I enjoyed reading all the trainer's opinions about all the different new styles of contact training. I don't think I'm going to go back and retrain my seven and five-year-old dogs, but it was a cool magazine issue for collecting ideas. This is the first time I've read an article about the straight shoulder problem. It was nice to hear trainers thinking that we should train the A frame contact depending on the style of body type the dog has.

I had been considering buying one of the new contact "toys"; a flat yellow pad that beeps when the dog step on it. (**Hit It** Electronic Running Contact Trainer by Clean Run) They are a bit pricey, \$100-\$130 for single pad. While I was considering the benefits of this training device, I found an article in *Clean Run* describing how to make and inexpensive contact clicker board. Inspired. I went to Home Depot at

eight o'clock at night, collected all the materials, went home and assembled the clicker boards.

Traditionally, I trained a flat yellow board as a "GO" board using a clicker. I had great results using this technique to teach my dogs to go forward, and move on, ahead of me over the jumps. I had also used my flat yellow boards at the bottom of the A frame and the Dog Walks. The dog hits the contact board, I click, the dog gets a treat. *Clean Run* had an article about this technique several years ago. I built three of these cheap clicker contact boards to see if they were more effective than the plain contact boards. They are a wonderful tool/toy! The dogs love to dive over the A-frame head down, smashing the clicker board with both paws. They seemed to find it a very gratifying twist on an old game.

Hint: Before placing the clicker boards at the end of a contact, just put them on the ground and reward hitting it with the paws and making the clicker work. I am assuming your dog has done some clicker work.

A friend's dog was having trouble with the idea of "GO", as in go over the jump that is straight ahead of me. With this cheap clicker board she got the idea very quickly, her distance increased to 15 feet of "OUT" and "GO" in 10 minutes

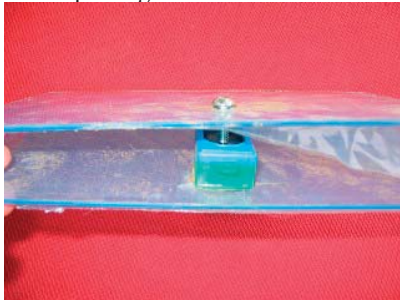
Following are instructions for these wonderful cheap, quick clicker boards; the initial directions come from *Clean Run* magazine November 2004 (available from www.cleanrun.com).

Two pieces of Lexan XL

8 by 10 inches. .093, CLR



The Plexiglas (Lexan) is duct taped together like a book.



A one-quarter by three-quarter round headed slotted machine screw with nut to fit the bolt. Hint; check the clicker placement before drilling the hole. The Plexiglas was very hard on my drill bits. Be careful how you brace the Plexiglas, I shattered one piece before I learned how to drill without shattering. I recommend: drill with a small drill bit first, then go back and widen the hole with the larger bit. Plexiglass dulls drill bits, but it's not worth buying a new set of bits. Patience is the key!

I attached the clicker with plastic glue, often called plastic adhesive. This was the weak part of the system, no matter how much glue I used the clicker breaks off after about 15

minutes of Sheltie stomping. When the Australian Shepherd hit it, the clicker only lasted five minutes. Finally we just braced the clicker in place, and we tried duct tape to stabilize the bottom of the clicker, that worked the best.

The original directions call for spray-painting the Plexiglas yellow, but Home Depot did not have a yellow plastic spray paint. So I skipped that step.

Assembly took me 10 minutes per contact board, we played hard with them for an hour, they are still mostly intact, except the clicker has to be constantly reassembled. I definitely got my seven dollars of wear out of them. They lasted four training sessions with 55-pound Aussies smashing them. Now the clickers are broken and the Plexiglas is starting to fracture. We discover that a piece of duct tape worked as well as glue to hold the clicker.

There are two different electronic contact pads now available; I am seriously considering buying at least one, if anyone has one, could I try at first? The one advertised on the Power Paws website is not available at this time.



Columbia Agility Team Request for Agility Nationals Stipend

Complete all areas of this form and mail it to Karla Forte, 10908 NE 80th St., Vancouver, WA 98662.

Columbia Agility Team provides a stipend for its members who attend a national championship. Application of this stipend is limited as follows:

- Stipend amount is \$100
- Any request for a stipend must be received by the Treasurer on this form no later than 90 days past the last day of competition at the qualifying national event.
- The individual applying for the stipend must own and handle the dog
- The individual applying for the stipend must be a full member in good standing of Columbia Agility Team at the time the national was held AND at the time the stipend request was submitted
- The event may not be a breed-specific national event
- The national event must be held outside the geographical area of Oregon and Washington

Name of Owner/Handler: _____

Address: _____

Phone number: _____

Email address: _____

Dog's Name: _____

Event Name: _____

Event Dates: _____

Let us know how you did!

download: <http://www.columbiaagility.org/nationals%20stipend.pdf>
Because this form was not widely available, the deadline for applications for reimbursement for the past series of Nationals is **April 30, 2005**

Matt Sachs - Columbia Agility Team
8355 SW Gearhart Drive
Beaverton, OR 97007