

# November 9, 2008 CAT General Meeting Minutes

Location: Buster's in Tigard

Called to order at 7:00 pm

I. **Welcome—Tanya Sacks**—Called meeting to order.

## II. Reports

- a. **New Member Coordinator—Pat Weinkauf**—introduced new and prospective members in attendance.
- b. **Secretary—Kim Boothe**—Minutes from October 5, 2008 CAT General Meeting were reviewed and approved.
- c. **Treasurer—Judy Bluett**—Reviewed bank totals and total profit from trials for 2008. CAT is doing well. Detailed financial reports are always available to members by e-mailing Judy directly.
- d. **Vice-President—Trey Winthrop**—Absent, update provided by Tanya Sacks—Next General Meeting: Annual Meeting in January at Clackamas Denny's, tentatively scheduled for January 11, 2009.
- e. **Training Director—Pam Brown**—Please make sure to turn off the lights when leaving the Larsen Barn. We need one instructor for the Forest Grove Barn Level One class. Please e-mail Pam if interested. Thank you to Tara Choate for taking on a class in Wilsonville.

## III. Unfinished Business

- a. **Title danglers/plaques**—Kitty Ware suggested that members check with Carolyn Daniels about how firm the date is for submission of title dangler/plaque requests (as Carolyn has been out of town recently).
- b. **Slate of Candidates for 2009 Board**—Reviewed and approved.
  - i. **President**—Tanya Sacks
  - ii. **Vice-President**—Trey Winthrop
  - iii. **Secretary**—M'Lou Thompson
  - iv. **Training Director**—Pam Brown
  - v. **Members at Large**—Pat Weinkauf, Mike Chapman, Julie Jones, Kevin White, Debbie Runyen.
- c. **Annual CAT Holiday Party**—December 14 at Holiday Inn in Wilsonville. Responses are due back to Janelle by December 6 so she can finalize the meal counts. Remember, we are having a food drive (one for humans and one for canines). Participants are encouraged to bring one human and one canine canned non-perishable food item to help those less fortunate.
- d. **2009 Calendar of Trials**
  - i. February 28/March 1—NADAC trial at Canby. Chaired again by Karen McAllister.
  - ii. April 18/19—CPE trial at Clark County Fairgrounds. Pam Brown and Julie Jones co-chairing again.

- iii. Sometime in May through July time frame—USDAA trial. Location and date yet to be determined. Karla Forte chairing.
- iv. August—CPE trial at Wilsonville Park. Cheryl Huffman chairing again.
- v. September 12/13—NADAC trial at Clark County Fairgrounds. Pat Weinkauff chairing. (Clark County pushed our date to the weekend after Labor Day. The Susan Perry Seminar will still be the Friday before the trial.)
- vi. October 10/11—USDAA trial at Clark County Fairgrounds.
- vii. CAT has retained the rights to the end of June date for 2009 at the Canby Fairgrounds in case the club is prepared to request the Regional in 2010.

#### IV. New Business

- a. **Wilsonville Barn**—Erik Gordon has been the barn manager for 3 years but has to step down due to work responsibilities. We need a new manager for the Wilsonville Barn. Please contact Erik directly for details.
- b. **CAT Buck Compensation for Trial Committees**—The Board has approved increased compensation for trial committees. The Finance Policies are being updated to reflect these changes and we will have them updated in the Policies section of the website soon.
  - i. **Trial Chair, Secretary, and Chief Scorekeeper**—All are increasing from 65 to 120 CAT Bucks.
  - ii. **Chief Ring Steward and Chief Course Builder**—Are going up to a range of 80 to 120 CAT Bucks (depending on number of rings in the trial).
  - iii. **Remainder**—Jobs previously at 30 are now all 40 CAT Bucks.
- c. **Member input/questions**
  - i. A suggestion was made to add Raffle Coordinator to key trial positions for next year's Board.
  - ii. It was noted that the Member List is available on the website.
  - iii. A suggestion was made to increase the number of CAT Bucks for breakdown of trials/loading trailers. Something as incentive for more people to "stay to the bitter end". Some clubs have a raffle for a free trial entry certificate. It was noted that this does not compensate everyone that helps.
  - iv. A request was made to please clarify the use of CAT Bucks in the 2009 Policies. Dick Watson keeps the policies up on the website. Everyone please review these in the Members section.
  - v. A question was asked as to whether there would be a survey in 2009 regarding spending of the excess cash that CAT has. No formal survey is planned at this time but members are always welcome to send suggestions or questions to the President or the Board to get it on the agenda.
  - vi. **Summary of Land use issues presentation by CAT member John Rankin, Attorney At Law and discussion by members**—John is presenting some valuable information on land use issues that have begun to impact agility facilities. John began by noting that Dwight and Paula Cash introduced

John and his wife, Pamela, to agility a few years ago. John is representing a CAT couple who have a dog training business and arena. Some neighbors in the past have complained. The building on their property had a permit to be built but not to run dog agility. The original complaints were quelled directly with the neighbors, but had made their way to the County Board. Now the County is focusing on code enforcement. This couple is just one of many people who may be facing the same issue. Many arenas are zoned as farmland, not for dog agility. John is looking for any interest from CAT and other organizations to support his ability to get information to the legislature to get land use statutes addressed. The statutes defining farm use address stabling and training of equines, not dogs. Greyhound facilities that had received approval must not adversely affect existing commercial farms. In the state of Oregon, dog agility is huge and growing. John is gathering information, including current statistics of how many people are involved. The difference between dog kennels and dog agility/performance dog sports needs to be included in statutes. (In Arizona, dogs are much more restricted than livestock.) A question was raised about getting big agility organizations involved nationally. Dog agility and dog training facilities tend to be more rural than urban; which involves farm/forest land, so the issue needs to be addressed in land use law. John is envisioning statewide change. An offer was made to post John's information on the WAG list. We need to note the economic impact of agility on local communities as well as identify and quantify the impact of agility on the Oregon economy. Carol Hibbard has contacted Clackamas County Fairgrounds regarding how much of the time the facilities are used for dog events. Information is needed about the numbers of people involved in specific areas/regions, economic impact. Is CAT able to provide financial support? John is thinking that \$5,000 to \$10,000 will be needed for lobbyists, etc. to get this issue on the legislative agenda. His plan is to put together a bill, get support from State Senators/Representatives from the area, get the legislative committee to draft a bill, start hearings (interested people can attend hearings), put pressure on the senators and representatives who will then put the bill into committee, from which it will eventually go to the floor and be voted on at the legislative floor. The wording will need to include other dog performance events. A question was raised: Is there a risk with pushing for legislation of losing what we already have? Risk assessment should be done very carefully and discreetly. Using numbers from fully supported (legally) facilities should be helpful. We can use internet lists, etc. to garner support. The AgileCAT list will need to be kept updated so that members can attend hearings, etc. A suggestion was made to consider having CAT match funds from other clubs up to a certain amount. Maybe the club could pay toward research regarding risk assessment and information gathering.

John will be discreet and cautious about testing the waters so as not to jeopardize existing facilities. We need to create a staging list with individual steps outlined. Maybe CAT could have a committee to reach out to other clubs for research. We need to find out the number of people involved in clubs/training events, what other states are doing, and economic impact on communities. We can use information from trial secretaries (Elaine Resner can contact AKC clubs for information). A motion was made and approved to create a Legislative Subcommittee focused on dog sports. Dick Watson will head the subcommittee. Information should be filtered through him to John. Some subcommittee plans: gather information, letter writing, focus on the quality of dogs and owners involved in agility. Anyone interested in helping with the subcommittee should contact Dick Watson.

V. **Adjournment**—Meeting adjourned at 8:21 pm

Respectfully submitted by Kim Boothe