

# Saccarappa Yapper



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## The next meeting will be:

*Wed, June 24, 2020*

*At 7:00 PM at:*

*By Conference Call*

*Details forthcoming*

*Refreshments:*

***INSERT YOUR NAME HERE***

***It's a Conference Call!!***

## JUNE BOARD MEETING

The June meeting of the Saccarappa Obedience Club board was held on 6/10/2020 by telephone conference call. All members were present except Carol, Elissa, and MJ. The meeting was called to order by President Sandy Cloutier at 6:01 PM.

The Secretary's report is pending publication in the newsletter, the Yapper.

The Treasurer reported on the CD's. One may need to be cashed in to pay bills, and we may be taking a loss on the rent.

Sandy reported for the Corresponding Secretary, that we have not heard back yet from AKC about our By-Law change.

### Unfinished Business:

We don't think Happy Tails has reopened for day care yet. Governor Mills has extended the emergency order for 30 more days. Happy Tails has not changed their rules, but maybe they will be relaxed by our next meeting. Our classes will be restarting soon: Scent work with Bob on 6/15/2020 at 4:30; Run-thrus with Brenda on 6/22/2020; Thursday obedience with Merrillynn on 6/18/2020. Cindy Lester will also be starting an outside handling class, but the date is unknown at this time.

**(Continued on page 2)**

(Board meeting continued from page 1):

Brenda is trying to find another obedience teacher. Tina C. will ask her friend, Sherri Briton. Drema suggested asking Rebeccah Aube.

**New Business:**

We probably won't have a picnic this year. The State Park is quite expensive for such a small group, but we will ask the membership at the next meeting, on 6/24/2020.

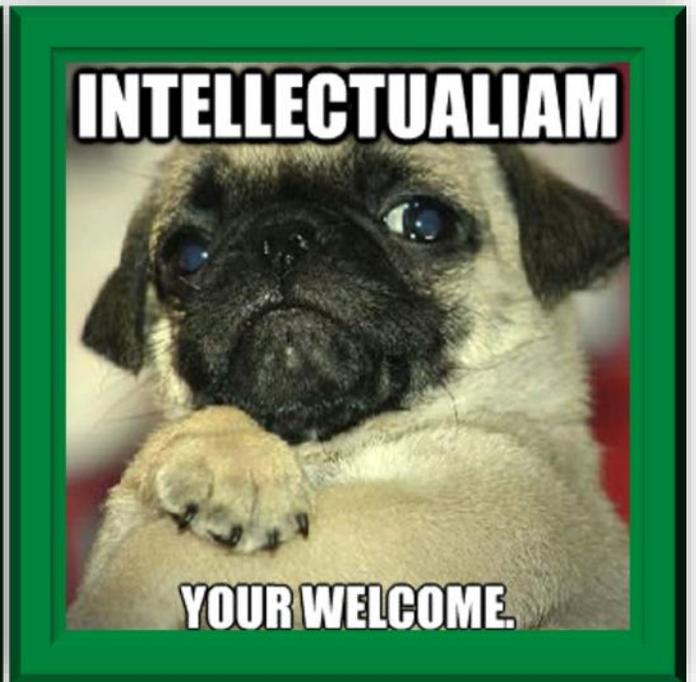
We need to have a July meeting because we will be getting closer to the trial date. We need to make the decision in June, as the premium needs to get out. We discussed the possibility of using Cumberland Fairgrounds for the trial as it would allow fresh air, crating in our cars, and social distancing. But, would handlers be interested in showing? Sandy said she would ask Claire to contact the fairgrounds.

The Scent work trial was approved for October 17.

The board does not meet in July. The next board meeting will be on August 12 at 6 PM.

Meeting adjourned at 6:31.

Respectfully submitted, Drema Shaw, Recording Secretary



# MAY GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

The monthly meeting of Saccarappa Obedience Club was held on May 27, 2020, by conference call because of the ongoing need for social distancing. Twenty-nine members were present on the call, and no guests. The meeting was called to order at 7:01 by President Sandy Cloutier.

The Secretary's report was accepted as corrected. It was suggested to add Lynn and Kim Booth by name as guests at the April meeting.

The Treasurer reported one bill was paid to Happy Tails. If you have any bills, please send them to Mary. The Report was accepted as read.

The Corresponding Secretary reported that the By-Law change was submitted and received by AKC, with no idea when it will be reviewed because of the current pandemic situation. The secretary also sent out by email the AKC best practice list for trials.

Sandy thanked Joey for his work on the video for our virtual Memorial Day parade. Committee reports were deferred for now.

## **Unfinished Business:**

**1.** Rebeccah gave a report about the plans for Happy Tails. They are setting up their own rules. Rebeccah is a member of the Maine State Best Practices group for dog training, and she will send SOC the requirements when they are ready. As of June 1, Happy Tails will follow the rules listed under fitness and day camps. As of now, classes are limited to 10 people total. We may be able to also use the outside area of Happy Tails for the same rent as always. We may also be able to rent just the outside area for just \$35/hour, but we will have NO access to inside. Everyone must wear a mask inside. Everyone must come in the red door, and exit through the side door and through the yard. Classes held outside will not require a mask, as long as they keep a 10' distance apart. The requirement for taking temperatures has been removed. Before classes start, Happy Tails will need a copy of all information provided to each student. All groups using Happy Tails training room will be expected to contribute to their cleaning and disinfecting supplies. Rebeccah hopes to be able to send the information to the club on the day after the meeting.

We had a discussion about the classes starting, and the training committee will try to come up with a plan. It was suggested that we have a waiver for all students to sign, regarding the Covid-19 virus. Classes will be adjusted as needed and maybe start in mid-June. Money was also discussed with the benefits and losses with class. Again, the training committee will discuss the issues. Only people signed up can enter the building. As Merrillynn lives in New Hampshire, maybe we need to give her a letter of intention to teach in Maine.

Brenda will need to know who plans to attend class.

**2.** It may be too soon to discuss the trial. Claire said our judges are willing to come. Nanci thinks that the Midcoast trial in November will be cancelled. We will need to make a decision next month.

## **New Business:**

Summer picnic? -- we will probably skip it this year.

Our next meeting will be on June 24 at 7 PM, by conference call. The same numbers will be used.

Meeting adjourned at 8:06 PM

Respectfully submitted, Drema Shaw, Recording Secretary

## MAY BOARD MEETING

The Board meeting of the Saccarappa Obedience Club was held on 5/19/2020 by conference call due to the ongoing need for social distancing. Present at the meeting were: Sandy, Deb, Drema, Mary T., Elissa, Tina, and Carol D. The meeting was called to order at 6:02 PM by President Sandy Cloutier.

The Secretary's report was accepted as written.

The Treasurer reported that our CD's will be due to renew in October. One bill was paid.

The Corresponding Secretary reported that AKC has accepted our trial request and if we cancel, payment may go towards next year's trial. AKC sent Elissa "best practices for obedience and rally" which she will share with the club. She has not yet contacted AKC about our By-Laws change, but will do so now at the request of the Board.

(FYI - to find AKC recommendations for all dog sports, go to:

[www.akc.org/press-center/covid-19-updates-from-the-american-kennel-club/](http://www.akc.org/press-center/covid-19-updates-from-the-american-kennel-club/)

Scroll down to find the list and click on your sport)

Committee reports were skipped for now.

Membership: If Kim and Lynn Booth attend our next meeting, they may be voted into the club.

Unfinished/New Business

An email came from Frank, at Happy Tails, with his list of safety recommendations for returning to class. We had a long discussion about the pros and cons. Sandy will send an email to members with a summary and encourage members to come to the next meeting/conference call with their thoughts. We have many questions about the logistics of classes at this time. Hopefully, Rebeccah Aube can help us at the next meeting.

We continued the discussion into our thoughts for the trial. Again, we have many questions: much of which depends on the place of the trial, the virus, and the school's availability. Deb says to expect that schools will not be back to normal in the Fall. When is the cut off time for a decision? The premium list needs to go out soon.

Some of our trainers are part of "Restarting Maine Dog Training 2020" a group working with legislators. They, or the CDC, may be able to provide some answers.

Our next regular monthly meeting will be on May 27, 2020, at 7 PM by conference call. Sandy will send out information to the club.

Meeting adjourned at 7:07 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Drema Shaw, Recording Secretary

# TRICK CONGRATULATIONS BRAGS

**MURPHY—>**

**Trick Dog Performance Title**



Both dogs are owned by Joe Shaw and Martha Miller



**<—LEO**

**Trick Dog Novice Title**

Apollo

Cyber-Rally O Dance Division— Preliminary Title

# Optimism in Dogs

Study looks at optimism and how it may predict successful service pups.

By [JoAnna Lou](#), October 2014, Updated July 2016 BARK

Those of us who live with dogs know that our pets have distinctly different personalities. My Sheltie, Nemo, is one of the happiest dogs that I know. A few years ago he was in a veterinary intensive care unit and the staff was amazed at how upbeat he looked, even while being whisked away for emergency surgery. I'm sure that his positive attitude contributed to his eventual full recovery.

So I wasn't surprised to find that studies have suggested that dogs may have a degree of optimism and pessimism. Back in 2010, Bark blogger Karen B. London wrote about a study that gauged these tendencies by the speed at which dogs approached food bowls. The canine test subjects first learned to associate a full food bowl with a certain location and an empty bowl with a different location. They were then brought to various ambiguous locations to observe their speed towards a bowl. Dogs who assumed a new location may also mean a full food bowl were labeled optimistic.

The study went on to measure behavior as well and found that the pessimistic dogs (the dogs who slowly approached bowls in ambiguous locations) were more likely to show separation-related distress, like destructive chewing and barking. While it was an interesting study, Karen believed there were too many variables to draw any conclusions about optimism and pessimism.

However, a new study just published out of the University of Sydney improves on the previous experiment and is applying the work to the selection of service dogs. Led by Dr. Melissa Starling, dogs were taught to touch a target on cue to trigger the release of a liquid. The cue was a sound—one tone that meant touching the target would produce milk and a different tone meant touching the target would result in water. As you can imagine, the dogs were much quicker to interact with the target after the "milk sound."

Once the target behavior was learned, the dogs were presented with ambiguous tones. Those who continued to touch the target at "milk speed" were labeled as optimists, while those who responded with "water speed" were labeled as pessimists. Dr. Starling also looked at the degree of optimism by looking at differences in their response to a range of tones. For instance, a very optimistic dog may touch the target at a quick speed even after a tone that sounds more similar to the water noise.

The research team also found that pessimistic dogs appeared to be more stressed after failing a task than the optimistic ones. This included whining, pacing, and avoiding the task. Optimistic dogs tended to be unfazed by failure and kept trying.

The cool part is that Dr. Starling is now working with Assistance Dogs Australia to see if an optimism test could help in selecting successful training candidates. She believes that this could help determine which dogs will take risks to gain rewards, be more resilient when things don't go their way, and be willing to persist through setbacks.

I can see how this information could be valuable for working dogs and even as a temperament test for future dog sport pups. I can't wait to see the outcome of her continued work with the service dogs.

Do you think your pup is an optimist or a pessimist?

