

SACCARAPPA YAPPER

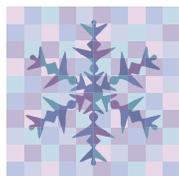
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Established 1966
Call us at 854-DOGS or visit us at SOCDOGS.com

March 2012

Next newsletter deadline: April 10, 2012

2012 Officers & Board:

PRESIDENT:	Mary Jo McCormack
VICE PRESIDENT:	Bob Tripp
REC. SECRETARY:	Mary Tripp
CORR. SECRETARY:	Claire Marx
TREASURER:	Brenda Proulx
BOARD OF DIRECTORS:	Bob Cuzner, Barbara Schwartz, Drema Shaw
PAST PRESIDENT:	Chris Berg
AKC DELEGATE:	Stephanie Ilka



NEXT MEETING:

NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, March 28, 2012 @ 7pm
Barron Center, Brighton Avenue in Portland

REFRESHMENTS: Genice Gorham, Genny Langille, Barbara Belicose

IMPORTANT!!!

Our Show & Go scheduled for April 8th HAS BEEN CANCELLED!!

MEMO TO MEMBERS:

Next Tuesday night classes will begin April 17th. Thanks to Rebeccah Aube for teaching Cindy's Beginner and Pre Novice classes while she's out. Also thanks to Nicki for teaching our Rally class and big thanks to Bob Cuzner for setting up some GREAT rally courses and helping everyone thru them. Truly a shame more people didn't take advantage of these rally run thrus.

Get well wishes go out to Ed McLean who is home from MMC after having open heart surgery. GET WELL ED!!

Also get well wishes go out to Cindy Strumph who had knee surgery last Tuesday March 13th. She's already making good progress, so she'll be back on her feet in no time! We all say "Heel" Cindy!!

Congratulations to Brenda Proulx who has a new Portie puppy "Dragon".... or is it "Draggin"??? He's already been to classes with her, and he watches the other dogs work, so he's well on his way....

And Barbara Schwartz is getting a new Australian Labradoodle puppy!!

At the Collie Club of Maine, Nicki Taylor and Lab Sunny won Novice B. Mary Tripp and BC Jack were 2nd in Beginner Novice A and Chris Berg and Berner Tycho placed 4th in Beginner Novice B. CONGRATULATIONS!

Saccarappa Obedience Club
March 14, 2012

Board Meeting

Saccarappa Obedience Club Board Meeting was held Wednesday, March 14, 2012, at Chris Berg's home. It was called to order by President Mary Jo McCormack at 7:13 P.M.,

Secretary's report was accepted as read.

Treasurer's report was accepted as read.

Correspondence:

Claire received an e-mail from Nicki asking to be excused from meetings this year because of her work schedule. Motion was made to excuse Nicki from meetings by Brenda and seconded by Bob Cuzner. Motion passed.

Committee Reports:

There were no committee reports.

Unfinished Business:

There was no unfinished business.

New Business:

Bob Cuzner went over the results of the survey that was handed out at the end of classes. He only got 18 responses. They were very positive responses. Maybe the helper in class the first night could go around and ask how they heard about our classes. Bob will go over these results at the regular monthly meeting this month.

Do we want to do something at our trial in memory of Evelyn at our trial this year? The Tracking Club does something for a volunteer who does a lot for the Tracking Club. Maybe we could do a high scoring senior award in her memory. We need to get suggestions from the Club members at the next regular monthly meeting on what we should do in her memory. Maybe we need to come up with a committee to decide what we need to do. What qualifies as a senior handler? It says in the premium for the trial that the senior handler has to be 60 years of age or older.

We need some new business cards. We need to check the business cards at the Armory because there maybe some new ones there. Maybe we need to do a flyer for Vet offices.

Nicki is doing another Rally Novice class again this session.

Mary Jo wants to go to the Pre-Novice class and see if she can get some of them to sign up for the next set of Rally classes.

We need an instructor for Star Puppy Class. The Club needs to have a Trainers meeting really soon.

Do we offer credits for people who are rolling up the mats? There has been a lot of confusion about credits and being able to view them.

Maybe the April 8th Show N Go should be cancelled. This was brought up because we did not have that good a turnout at the last Show N Go. Brenda made a motion to cancel the April 8th Show N Go and was seconded by Bob Cuzner. Motion passed.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Chris and seconded by Bob Cuzner. Meeting was adjourned at 8:10 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Tripp, Recording Secretary

Saccarappa Obedience Club Regular Monthly Meeting February 22, 2012

The regular monthly meeting of the Saccarappa Obedience Club was held on Wednesday February 22, 2012 at the Barron Center. The meeting was called to order at 7:02 P.M. by President, Mary Jo McCormack. There were 16 members present.

Secretary's report was accepted as read after the following change: Bob Cuzner would be there in the morning but not the afternoon for the Show N Go.

Treasurer's report was accepted as read. Chris made a motion to pay the bills and was seconded by Bob Cuzner. Motion passed.

Correspondence:

There was no correspondence.

Committee Reports:

There were no Committee Reports.

Unfinished Business:

The 2011 high scoring title dog went to Deb Lawler and Libby.

The Rally Seminar went really well. The survey that was handed out at the beginning of the seminar most of the responses were strongly agree or agree that the seminar was well worth their time.

Nicki did really good Novice rally course this last session. Bob Cuzner did some really interesting run thru courses in the last session.

New Business:

Cindy is having surgery on her knee in a few weeks and Rebeccah will be teaching her two classes while she is out. We are taking a session off from Rally run thrus.

Rusty has been really good about staying way beyond the end of her class to help roll up the mats on Tuesday night.

A motion was made by Chris to adjourn at 7:20 P.M. and seconded by Bob Cuner. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Tripp, Recording Secretary

BURNS



A young man sprinkling his lawn and bushes with pesticides wanted to check the contents of the barrel to see how much pesticide remained in it. He raised the cover and lit his lighter; the vapors ignited and engulfed him. He jumped from his truck, screaming.

His neighbor came out of her house with a dozen eggs and a bowl yelling: *"bring me some more eggs!"*

She broke them, separating the whites from the yolks.

The neighbor woman helped her to apply the whites onto the young man's face.

When the ambulance arrived and the EMTs saw the young man, they asked who had done this. Everyone pointed to the lady in charge.

They congratulated her and said: "You have saved his face."

By the end of the summer, the young man brought the lady a bouquet of roses to thank her. His face was like a baby's skin.

A Healing Miracle for Burns:



Keep in mind this treatment of burns is being included in teaching beginner fireman. First Aid consists of first spraying cold water on the affected area until the heat is reduced which stops the continued burning of all layers of the skin. *Then*, spread the egg whites onto the affected area.

One woman burned a large part of her hand with boiling water. In spite of the pain, she ran cold faucet water on her hand, separated 2 egg whites from the yolks, beat them slightly and dipped her hand in the solution. The whites then dried and formed a protective layer

She later learned that the egg white is a natural collagen and continued during at least one hour to apply layer upon layer of beaten egg white. By afternoon she no longer felt any pain and the next day there was hardly a trace of the burn. 10 days

later, no trace was left at all and her skin had regained its normal color. The burned area was totally regenerated thanks to the collagen in the egg whites, a placenta full of vitamins.

Since this information could be helpful to everyone: Won't you please pass it on?



Don't complain, obedience train!

Saccarappa has a brand new website
www.socdogs.com

Please check out the new site. We would love suggestions, more pictures and brags! You can send them to bex@pawsink.com

The new site also has a
MEMBERS ONLY SECTION
where you will find information about meetings, the monthly newsletter and a link to sign up for the new S.O.C. google group! The Members Section password is 854dogs

S.O.C. Google Group

A Google Group is a form of email that supports group communication without needing to have individual emails for everyone in the group. One email address will send to the entire group. It's quick and effective and a great way to look back if you missed something! This will be the main form of email communication for "CLUB" emails. IE: you will receive emails about events, meetings and classes via this group.

Please sign-up as soon as you can.

bex@pawsink.com if you have any questions



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Maximizing the Effects of Praise - by Tracy Libby

Praise is itself a reward for a job well done. Could it be that simple? It is, say the experts. Yet praise, or more specifically incorrect praise, continues to cause handlers and their dogs an inordinate amount of frustration. Endless chatter, indiscriminate reinforcement, and poor timing are the primary culprits because they do not define exactly what behavior you want from the dog. But given a few fundamental guidelines, success is well within the capabilities of most trainers.

No two dogs are alike. The type and quantity of praise required depend on the individual dog's personality and temperament. An excited or animated voice may work for an English Cocker, but many high-energy dogs such as Border Collies, Australian Shepherds, and Labrador Retrievers are frequently on the verge of being out of control. Calm verbal praise works best for these dogs because just the tiniest excitement in an owner's voice stimulates them even more, causing them to become too revved up to concentrate on the task at hand.

Physical praise is a personal thing with dogs: Some dogs love it, others dislike it. Some dogs like a little physical contact, but give them too much and they crumble. Some dogs--especially young puppies--go into uncontrollable wiggles at the mere anticipation of physical praise. Some dogs enjoy physical interaction if they have a toy but dislike being stroked, patted, petted, or otherwise touched when they are working.

"Herding dogs, as a whole, want to work. Many are businesslike in their approach, and they want to get on with the job at hand," says Denise Fenzi, a 25-year veteran of dog training who has titled dogs in conformation, obedience, herding, tracking, agility, and Schutzhund. "When owners insist on petting them, it disturbs them. All they want is an enthusiastic 'Very good!' and a new challenge or a chance to get their toy.

"Finding what works best for your dog involves reading his body language and a bit of trial and error, say the experts. Does he lean into you-happy, with relaxed panting, eyes open? Or does he lean away, trying to avoid physical contact? Shelties, for instance, are notorious for disliking physical praise or contact and will usually react by pinning back their ears, lowering their heads, or averting their eyes. One downside to physical praise is that dogs often look away when being stroked or petted. Perhaps not a problem for the agility or field-trial dog, but real trouble for the competitor in obedience, where attention is everything

Fenzi recounts how one owner insisted on physically praising her dog despite the dog's obvious dislike of it. "Do you think your dog likes that?" Fenzi finally asked. "No, but my last dog did," replied the owner. Verbal praise is the best route for dogs who dislike physical praise, and verbal praise alone is perfectly acceptable. That said, if you want to teach your dog to enjoy physical praise, Fenzi recommends teaching it away from the dog's obedience training.

TONE OF VOICE

"I believe you can train a dog with nothing more than your tone of voice," says Bobbie Anderson, a 35-year veteran of the sport of dogs with more than 200 Highs in Trial and author of *Building Blocks For Performance*. Some dogs become happy and wag their tails when their owner speaks to them in a normal tone of voice. Some get excited or cock their head at the sound of a high-pitched voice. Others strut around bursting with pride when they are rewarded with a simple "Good boy!" while some are more responsive to low, soothing tones.

"As you play, train, and forge a solid relationship with your puppy or adult dog," says Anderson, "you become more proficient at reading his body language. You learn when and how to praise effectively in order to feed his ego and boost his confidence. This, in turn, stimulates and encourages him to continue learning.

"Anderson recommends varying the tone of your voice and the amount of praise to fit the circumstances. If a dog receives explosive praise for every tiny thing he does, what type of praise will you use when he does something magnificent? An 8-week-old puppy who does a sit might get "Look at you! What a good sit!" Once he begins to respond to verbal commands a "Good boy!" is usually sufficient. If a dog holds his sit while other dogs run riot around him, the praise should be more exciting-"That was excellent! What a good boy!"-but not so exciting that he loses focus. "Use enough praise to let him know he is right, but not so much as to make him wild and crazy and distract him from the task at hand," says Anderson.

Maximizing the Effects of Praise - *continued*

Stress caused by a new or particularly difficult exercise can hamper a dog's ability to learn or perform. His insecurity may cause him to move slowly or tentatively. Once the dog completes a terribly stressful task, he should be met with an, explosion of praise: '*What a good boy! You did it!*

"When dogs hear a boring, repetitive tone of voice for every command, all the words run together. You say, "Good boy. Sit. No. Fido, don't. Good dog. Fetch. Heel. Stop that. No. Come here, Fido," and the dog hears, "Blah, blah, blah, Fido, blah, blah, blah, Fido." Besides being excruciatingly boring, which has zero motivational power, the dog is unable to distinguish between Obedience commands and praise. He never gets a sense of what behaviors you really like.

ENDLESS CHATTER

Equally troublesome is continuous chatter, which is like background noise that drones on and on and on. When a dog hears drawn-out, conversational chatter or continuous praise, "That's it, do your heeling. Good boy! Come on, get up here. Good boy. Yay for you. What a good man! That's mummy's boy. Look at you. Wow! What a good boy. Yay, yay, yay!" - he has no idea why he is being praised. He cannot relate the praise to a single behavior. Chances are good that the dog will look away, stand up, move, or wander off at the exact moment the handler is chatting away, which reinforces the wrong behavior.

Dogs may also become overly dependent on constant praise. Having never been taught to work without continuous praise, dogs shut down when the praise stops. This is an enormous problem in a competitive environment, such as obedience, where a handler must work quietly.

"Once a dog understands an exercise," says Fenzi, "the dog should be taught to associate silence rather than endless praise with a good performance. Silence means a reward is coming." Instead, handlers frequently get into trouble because they praise nonstop in training, and when that doesn't create the behavior they want, they stop praising and then correct the dog. In the dog's mind he thinks, "When the praise stops, a correction is coming."

TIMING

In dog training, timing is everything. Proper timing tells a dog exactly what behavior you want it's black and white. Poor timing confuses a dog, creating gray areas, and as Sylvia Bishop, internationally recognized dog expert and England's top obedience trainer and competitor, likes to say, "Keep the gray areas out of your training!"

The behavior you praise is the behavior you reinforce. That behavior is either right or wrong, a behavior you either want or do not want. Most traditional obedience trainers use a verbal command, such as "Yes!" or "Good boy!" to mark the behavior. Clicker trainers mark the behavior with a clicker. Either way, timing is essential. The verbal praise or click comes at the exact moment the dog is doing the behavior. Praise that comes too soon or too late will confuse the dog.

For example, when training a downstay, calm verbal praise should come during the exercise so the dog is reinforced for the desired behavior, which is the down-stay. Here's what usually happens: The dog does a marvelous down-stay but receives zero praise during the exercise. The handler releases the dog and then goes crazy with praise. The dog has just learned that the best part of the exercise is when it is over. "Praise is a reward for a job well done. It should never be a signal that the exercise is finished," says Anderson.

Praise motivates a dog to continue working. Clear and specific use of praise knowing how and when to praise, how much and what type of praise to use, and praising consistently will make things perfectly clear to your dog, and will lead to success in your training program.

Tracy Libby is the author of six books about dogs and a frequent contributor to the Gazette. She exhibits Australian Shepherds in Obedience and Conformation. Reprinted from the Sheltie International Express, February 2012 issue, with permission from the Gazette, February 2008 issue. □

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