

Northwestern Connecticut Dog Club Newsletter

Submitted by Rene Allegrini

September 2009



Next Meeting

Wednesday September, 16th, 2009

6:00 P.M.

Goshen Fairgrounds

Goshen, CT

Directions to Goshen Fairgrounds:

From the North: Rt. 8 to ex 44, West on Rt 4 to Goshen, South on Rt 63 to Fairgrounds on right

From the West: Rt 202 to Litchfield, North on Rt 63 to Fairgrounds on left

From the East: I-84 West to Rt 8 (see below)

From the South: Rt 8 North to ex 42, West on Rt 118 to Litchfield Green, North on Rt 63 to Fairgrounds on left

Please make every attempt to volunteer to clean up and set up for our Point Show. Your club needs your support in order for this event to be a success!

Thank You!

Prez says Aug. 09

People always say that the world of Dogs is a very small one, and I am really beginning to believe that is true. When you steward for a judge from Spain, a breeder of Pyrenean Mastiffs, you're not really surprised when he knows a Collie breeder from Argentina well, or finds out after the judging of Gordon Setters that he recently gave the group to a Gordon in Adelaide, Australia that is coming to live with a breeder in Massachusetts.

But a story that Liz Faber just told me really drives the point home. She recently got a call from a woman who lives in Albany who got a Border from Liz a couple of years ago. Well this lady is on a cross-country driving trip, and while stopping over in Ohio, saw another lady walking a Border. Of course she stopped to chat with this person, only to find out that she had gotten her dog from Liz Faber as well. When she then asked if she could remember the breeding, the lady told her that her dog's mother was Starkweather Ticket. Imagine the surprise for them both when the Albany traveler informed her that she now owned Ticket! A get-together was arranged for the next day to reunite mother and daughter. The lady from Ohio was sure they would remember each other...

I guess the moral of the story is that our little hobby is so much more than arranging for dumpsters at dog shows or even wine, cheese, enchiladas and desserts on the second Wednesday of the month. It is about making new friends, exchanging stories and jointly enriching our own and others' lives. I think that on a certain level we all understand this, and even the officers of the AKC do. I say this because a few weeks ago I got a personal note from Dennis Sprung, the new President of the AKC. He had read the statement Karen had thought we should put in our Premium list and wanted to congratulate us on our continued success and thank us for "all the good we do for so many people." When people in the executive offices are able to take notice of the mission statements of little clubs in Connecticut, it makes you believe that we are a part of something worthwhile that still puts people and dogs first.

Enough rambling! Now hear this! The August show is a wrap, on to the September adventure. It was great to see so many Club members in West Springfield working, showing, shopping, eating or just enjoying the dogs. Despite the expected reduced number of entries at all four shows, I know it was a very successful weekend. Once again we had several foreign judges and to listen to them talk about their various breeds and stories of judging on five continents was really fascinating. Ask me about some of the experience some judges have had in Moscow. The stories are amazing.

We are only three weeks away from our primary show in Goshen. The entries close this Wednesday for that weekend, and all the rest of the details already seem to be in place. As we are a stand-alone show again as was the case for almost all of our history up there, participation from Club members and friends is more essential than ever. I encourage you to talk to dog-loving friends who might like to work in some capacity if only for a couple of hours. In addition to providing us with the extra hands we will need, it may inspire them to join the Club and add a rewarding activity to their lives. Remember also, that the meeting on the Wednesday before the show will be at the fairgrounds to work on set-up. People will also be needed for the rest of the week to do last minute things and Karen, Dale, Althea and Sandi with their organizational tasks. And then, equally as importantly, PRAY FOR GOOD WEATHER so we get a good gate. (Which we don't have to share with anybody this year ☺) That's enough for now, and I'll be seeing you all in less than three weeks. Remember—we don't prepare the food for this meeting—we get it carried in so we can spend more time sweeping, moving tables, and that other fun stuff.

See you soon,

Tim

**Combined Board/General Meeting, NCDC
July 12, 2009**

Members in attendance: Karen Desjardins, Rene & Joe Allegrini, Bill Berth, Bob Longo, Dave Thomas, Don & Dawn Wilkes, Sandra Genung, Sandra Funk, Mary Anne Carew, Billie Ponton, Elizabeth Faber, Bev Muzynski, Rose & Bill Jenks, Althea Stowe. Joyce & John McNabney were present; did not sign attendance sheet.

Guests in attendance: Ashley Warzocha and Colleen Kellogg.

The meeting was called to order by Joe Allegrini at 6:45pm at the Morris Senior Center. Joe indicated there were no minutes from the previous meeting; no old business to address.

New Business: Discussion of two upcoming shows, Don to move trailer to show, working up fair price. Althea needs a contract amendment for Don.

August (8/20/2009) show – Diane, Sandi, Sandy, Dave, Tim and Bob to steward show. Karen indicated there is a 10% reduction in entries, but we are on track for the August show. Trophies ordered, Tim to be at “dinner” Friday night. Remind Tim he will have no showing eligibility on Friday or Saturday.

September (9/20/2009) show – Karen indicates premium list is out; Joe will handle lunch on Sunday. Courtyard by Marriott, dinner at D’Aurios, trailer & RV parking need a contract to Althea. Trash contract all set. “Explorers” handling parking; Althea to check vendor pricing from last year. Discussion about reducing per foot price for space. Althea and Karen to email follow-up. Further discussion that no money is made on concessions and no desire to price vendors out of the market. Question about setting up tents early Saturday 9/19/2009, with sandwiches & salads from Carbone’s; to be decided.

Per Althea, restroom cleaning is to be finalized with Tim, banking needs to be done a week prior to show. Starting cash will go to Joe or Don (to be decided) for RV parking. Confirmed no catalogs sold at the gate. Question about “bunny people” splitting fees. Chore list passed around this evening. Liz will pick up soda and ice, Bill Berth will handle handicapped parking, Althea will check inventory at trailer, get back to Karen. Althea and Liz (w/Tim) to work out BJ’s run for supplies.

Ashley wishes to become a member of NCDC. Ashley’s membership approved by voice vote.

Joe indicated we need a nominating committee: Joe (Board Member), Don Wilkes and Sandra Genung volunteered. Mary Ann Carew will be Alternate.

Colleen Kellogg (scholarship recipient, 3rd yr) attended our meeting, spoke of her upcoming classwork in Scotland. She has hopes of expanding her father’s business at Winsted Hospital for Animals to include a more mixed specialty.

Althea gave the Treasurer’s report.

Billie Ponton spoke of AV ID chips, combining with HSUS. She suggested some people would wish to change to the HomeAgain Service, or others.

Motion to Adjourn meeting, begin pot luck supper was approved at 7:43pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Dawn Wilkes
For the Secretary

***Next Meeting will be postponed to September 16, 2009.**

**General Meeting and Meeting of the Board NCDC:
Minutes July 8, 2009**

Members in Attendance: Beverly Muzynski, Sandi Funk, Sandra Genung, Gene Ptachcinski, Mary Anne Carew, Dawn and Don Wilkes, Billie Ponton, John and Joyce McNabney, Joe and Rene Allegrini, Rose and Bill Jenks, Bill Berth, Dave Thomas, Bob Longo, Michael f. Bloch, Elizabeth Faber, Tim Acker, Jen Zappone.

Guests: Ashley Warzocha, Sheila and Michelle Dean, Lisa Dauten

Tim opened the meeting at 6:50 at the Morris Senior Center. After the minutes of the June meeting were read out, Mike Bloch moved they be accepted and Billie Ponton seconded the motion which was passed by voice vote.

There was no news concerning the August show. It was reported that the Premium list was out and a sign up sheet was passed around for people to indicate if they could work at the Thursday show. Anyone interested in attending the Judges dinner for the cluster on Friday night should contact Tim who would call Cathy Dougherty.

The Club was still working on the ability to send the Newsletter out through email in a format that all could open. Members were urged to make sure the Club had their correct email addresses. There was no further old business to conclude.

The treasurer's report was given by Tim Acker. Althea Stowe had given him the report but could not stay for the meeting. .

Tim Introduced Ashley Warzocha, a regular participant of the training classes. Ashley was given a membership application and encouraged to join the club. She has a Shitzu and a miniature poodle with which she is beginning her obedience competition.

Committee Reports:

Membership: no activity.

AKC: NYC "Meet the Breed" in October details on AKC website; John McNabney reported that the vote for division of groups would be taken at the September meeting. Members were urged to study the issue so club members could express their preference to Billie before that meeting. John also reported on an AKC Challenge for new registrations; letters were being sent to Presidents and Secretaries of Clubs.

Billie again urged members to sign up for NCDC discussion group on Yahoo as many important things were posted there as well as information forwarded from the AKC. Rose added that she had recently posted information concerning questionable rescue organizations there.

Canine-Feline Genetics conference to be held at Tufts Veterinary School, information on their website; Saturday the 11th Gene reported that the annual Broadway Barks fundraiser event would be held including a parade with dogs in NYC.

New Business: Sandy Funk inquired about rescue groups being invited to set up booths at the September show. This was generally approved, and space would be given free of charge. Two of the 2009 Scholarship recipients were introduced. Michelle Dean and her mother Sheila from Watertown were in attendance. Michelle will be starting her studies at NWCCC in September. And Lisa Dauton came from Litchfield. Lisa will be attending UCONN in Storrs this fall.

At 7:25 John McNabney moved to adjourn the meeting and the motion was seconded by Bill Jenks.

The Crisis of Choosing Between Owning a Dog and Obtaining Home Owners Insurance

<http://canadafreepress.com/index.php/article/14388>

The dogs aren't the bad guys. Animal law making people are

By Dean A. Ayers Thursday, September 3, 2009

Dogs have never been more a part of our lives than they are today. Even though nearly 45 million American homes have at least one canine family member, dogs are being forced out of their homes by various dog ban legislation and by home owner's insurance outrageous premiums as a result of legislation dog insurance mandates.

These mandated dog insurance policies are being pushed by various animal rights activist groups, and law making people who 'buy into' the local media 'hype' when a dog bite incident occurs on private property or in the community. Additionally, these slanted propaganda media blitz's about dangerous dogs and potential dangerous dog breeds are over-emphasized by the main stream media to 'push' dogs into being banned out of entire communities. In fact, this "potential dangerous dog" media hysteria is occurring nation wide in ever-increasing numbers, however this article's factual information contend that the headlines fail to tell the whole story about actual and realistic dog behavior.

For a real example of what 'propaganda' dangerous dog and dog bite 'hype' can do, you have to look no farther than in Denver, Colorado. Denver has one of the toughest pit bull bans in the country. Some 2,000 pit bulls were put to death there last year alone because of it. Denver, CO. has allegedly become known as the 'dog hating' capital of the nation.

Around the country, banning pit bulls has become the most popular answer to the potential 'dangerous dog' question. Many states and the municipalities alike, just like Omaha, Nebraska, and Mills County, Iowa, have now implemented major animal care and control legislation and these areas like the rest of the country have jumped on the animal rights dangerous dog 'ban' wagon. In Mills County, Iowa, if your harmless dog escapes off your property three times, the County will designate your dog as a "dangerous dog." It doesn't take a rocket scientist to realize this tyranny legislation is going to have a great economic hardship on the dog owner's home owner insurance premium and even the dog, if the owner can no longer afford to keep the dog due to fees, fines, and potential confiscation and euthanasia of the dog. Additionally, a cursory review of the Mills County, Iowa animal care and control ordinance disclosed there is no lawful and constitutional 'due process' afforded in the legislation for proper hearings and testimony for the dog owner, before the county animal control authorities can 'legally' confiscate, seize or euthanize your dogs....

AS MENTIONED AT LAST MEETING:

Banking for the September show will be done 1 week prior to the show. If cash or check is needed for payments for anyone, I must have something in writing prior to this. Either a bill, contract or invoice *is required*. Anything given to me the day of the show, or the Wednesday before, other than the usual and Judges bills, will not be paid until the Monday after the show.

Althea Stowe
Treasurer NCDC

Nominating Committee

The following slate is presented by the Nominating Committee:

President	Tim Acker
1st Vice President	Joe Allegrini
2nd Vice President	Karen Desjardins
Recording Secretary	Marianne Carew
Corresponding Secretary	Rene Allegrini
Treasurer	Dawn Wilkes
AKC Delegate	Billie Ponton

Nominations may be made from the floor at the October meeting, but you are reminded that you need the person's written consent first.

***** The club is providing food for the September meeting *****