

# NOMAD NEWS

Northern Magic Agility Dogs

APRIL

2007

## SPRING MEMBERSHIP MEETING

WEDNESDAY APRIL 11, 2007 7:00 p.m.

at the Richmond Congregational Church on Bridge Street

**Parking is across the street in the Richmond Library/Town Offices parking lot. We will not be serving snacks at this meeting.**

Everyone is invited and encouraged to attend this meeting. We will be voting on the proposed practice guidelines (Page 3 in March newsletter). We need a 60% affirmative vote by the membership on this issue (as per the by-laws), so please, please, please get your proxy in if you will not be at the meeting. The proxy form is on page 5 in the March newsletter in this newsletter. All items with a \*\* require a vote.

Also, please read the minutes of last fall's meeting before coming to this meeting so we can vote on them quickly. They have already been approved by the Steering Committee. They are in the December newsletter, as well as on our web site.

### Spring Meeting Agenda

Minutes from Fall Meeting\*\*

2006 Financial Summary\*\*

#### Old Business:

1. Budget
2. Committee Reports
  - a. 2007 trials update
  - b. Equipment Committee
  - c. Seminar Committee
  - d. Membership Committee
  - e. Demo Committee
  - f. Other committee reports, if necessary.

#### New Business

1. Proposed Practice Guidelines\*\*

The membership will vote whether to approve the Proposed Practice Guidelines.
2. Winter barn use  
The club will be discussing how best to utilize the Jericho barn next winter in light of low attendance at the barn this year.
3. Nominating Committee  
We will appoint a Nominating Committee who will find candidates for the vacant Steering Committee positions
4. Any new business raised from the floor.

#### DIRECTIONS TO SPRING MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Take I-89 to Richmond Exit 11 to Route 2 East.

Follow Route 2 into Richmond and turn right at traffic light onto Bridge Street. Richmond Congregational Church will be on your right after you cross the railroad tracks. There is limited street parking by the Church. More parking is available at the Library and Post Office, which are located on your left shortly after the Church.

## Freedom Farm Winter Practice News

Date Type of Practice Faciliator

\*\*4/1 Last Practice Facilitator needed

\*\*Please note that April 1 is the last practice at the Jericho barn. We will be loading equipment into the trailer following practice.

### WORK OPPORTUNITIES

*from Lynne von Trapp*

There are some upcoming opportunities for NOMAD Working Members to help with important club activities. I enjoyed talking about helping out with those of you I reached by phone. Thanks to others who got back to me by e-mail. For those who haven't reached me yet, please let me know if/when you can help. Lynne@pshift.com 802-253-7673

#### EQUIPMENT PARTY

At least 12 people have already committed to coming, some for both days. Saturday and Sunday, April 7/8, 2007, 9:00 - 5:00 each day, at Lisa Barrett's insulated garage in Huntington. Pizza and drinks provided for lunch. Wear work clothes. Be prepared to clean, paint, tape poles and bars, and/or work with tools and generally have a fun time. Supplies and tools are provided, but if you have favorite tools, be sure to bring them.

#### DIRECTIONS TO LISA BARRETT'S HOUSE:

Take Exit 11 from the Interstate and go to Richmond. Turn RIGHT at the stoplight onto Bridge Street. Bridge St. turns into Huntington Road. Follow for a couple of miles till you see Sherman Hollow Road on the RIGHT. There will be signs for Birds of Vermont and the Audubon Center. Turn right. Lisa's driveway is 1.3 miles, on the RIGHT. Look for mailbox with 1350 on it.

#### NOMAD'S TRIALS

##### JUNE 16/17,

Set up on the 15th

##### AUGUST 18/19,

Set up on the 17th

Job descriptions and volunteer forms will be in the May newsletter. We have very nice gifts for anyone who works a full day of the USDAA trial without running a dog! Please fill out a volunteer form, even if you have let someone know that you can work at the trials.

### NOMAD's Steering Committee

*Contact them if you have questions or suggestions.*

#### President

Lynne von Trapp \_\_\_\_\_ 253-7673

#### Vice-President

Karen Clark \_\_\_\_\_ 527-8355

#### Treasurer

Linda Ladd \_\_\_\_\_ 879-3461

#### Secretary

Kim Rubin \_\_\_\_\_ 899-3382

e-mail: som13@aol.com

#### Members at Large

Don Denette \_\_\_\_\_ 872-8767

Kit Erskine \_\_\_\_\_ 586-9932

Patty McMahon \_\_\_\_\_ 434-3423

<http://nomadagility.com/>

# WHAT IS A HANDLING SYSTEM?

By Linda Mecklenburg

Printed by permission. For more information visit [www.awesomepaws.us](http://www.awesomepaws.us)

A handling system is simply your means of communication with your dog. Think of it as the “language” you both speak. For your dog to reliably and promptly do what you ask, you both must understand what you are saying. Sounds simple, but it is not. Having a “system” means you’ve worked it out so that a particular cue has a predictable meaning and both you and your dog should know how he should respond when you give that cue. Having a system means you use a particular cue *\*only\** when you want that response; if you use it when you don’t want the response, you are being inconsistent. If you use that cue combined with other cues, you must know how the cues interact in order to achieve the desired effect.

Basically imo there are five primary types of cues 1) motion, 2) position (relative to obstacle and/or dog) 3) shoulder direction 4) hand signals 5) verbal commands. You can think of each of these as a “word” in your “language” and you can combine those words into sentences that have different meanings. Different systems may use different cues to get the same action from the dog (just as different languages may have different words that have the same meaning).

Numbers 2 and 3 are difficult to separate sometimes, and indeed it is difficult to isolate any of the cues so that the dog is cued by one independently of the others. The fact that it is difficult to isolate cues is important because many times handlers *\*believe\** they are using a certain cue when in fact they are inadvertently using several different cues and the dog may be interpreting a cue the handler is not even aware of. To be consistent with my cues, I must understand what they are.

For example, I run forward past a jump when I want my dog to assume he is to extend and go straight. If I am frequently late for a front cross and jerk him back around me into a turn as he lands (in effect telling him he was wrong to assume extension with that cue), I am being inconsistent. My dog may learn to cope by no longer trusting my extension cues and simply going slower so that he’s “ready” for the late front cross. If I rear

cross on the take-off side of a jump when I want my dog to turn and then occasionally verbally redirect him to go straight which says “Nope, you were wrong, this time I want you to go straight”. My dog may learn to cope by always going forward after a jump until he hears a verbal (ie ignore the body language) making him verbally dependent even though that is not my intention.

In systems where hand signals play a major role, using an outside hand on the approach to a jump to cue a front cross and wrap *\*could\** inadvertently lead to the dog turning away if it is also used to cue a rear cross. I would not expect that to happen in my system because my system depends primarily on motion, not hand cues, and without lateral motion in direction of the turn away, I would not expect my hand signal to have such an effect. (Now if I am moving laterally toward my dog on the approach to a jump, and I use an outside hand which also turns my shoulders, he may indeed turn before the jump :) In systems that emphasize verbals it is not unusual for the dog to have wide turns because he learns he must wait for the verbal before turning.

## WHY YOU NEED ONE

You should use a system to facilitate your dog’s understanding of what is expected so that he knows what your cues mean and he trusts that they always mean the same thing so that he can confidently perform whatever behavior is expected with speed and accuracy. You should use a system so that *\*you\** know what your cues mean! :)

Agility courses are far too complex for just five separate cues to be effective. For example, if we were limited to cues that meant forward, stop, right, left and backup, that would not be adequate. We solve this problem by using combinations of the cues to achieve the desired effect. How those cues are used in relation to one another is what makes one system different from the next.

My handling system is based on MOTION, position, shoulders, hand and verbal signals in that order of priority.

Other systems place more emphasis on position and hand signals, still others emphasize verbal cues above all else. I like to take what my dog is naturally responsive to (motion, position, shoulders) and use that to my advantage. Other systems use trained skills to override the dog’s natural tendency to cue off body language. For example, in my system, if I am decelerating on the approach to an obstacle, my dog will assume he is to prepare for a turn. In a more verbally oriented system, the handler may have a “Go on” verbal command that tells the dog to ignore what comes naturally (ie to cue off motion and position) and do not turn, carry on ahead. My system works well on courses that turn fairly frequently because even if I am not fast, I am always where I need to be to cue my dog. If I ran in venues that had lots of straightaways, the handler with a more verbal system may indeed have an advantage.

## EXPLAINING WHAT A HANDLING SYSTEM IS.

It wouldn’t surprise me to learn that the reasoning behind most, if not all, handling “rules” relates to consistency. In every system there must be an understanding between the dog and handler as to who is responsible for what in order for it to succeed. Having certain “rules” (or “guidelines” as I prefer to call them) in a handling system help the dog predict what the handler wants in given situations.

### EXAMPLES OF “GUIDELINES”:

Simplified dog responsibilities from my system:

- 1) if I am using my right hand it means I want my dog on my right side
- 2) my dog should assume he is not to backjump,
- 3) my dog is not to cross the plane of my body behind me,
- 4) my dog is not to cross the plane of an obstacle without performing it.

If I expect my dog to follow these guidelines I should not, for example:

- 1) use my right hand when I want my dog on my left
- 2) ask my dog to backjump,

3) ask my dog to go around behind me to realign for an obstacle

4) heel my dog past an obstacle.

To do any of those things would be inconsistent with what I expect my dog to do and I can't expect him to respond reliably if I sometimes expect him to do one thing and sometimes expect him to do another.

Simplified handler responsibilities in my system:

- 1) responsible for running in the right direction :) Sounds funny, but because my system is based on motion as the primary cue, I do not want to move inappropriately or inconsistently
- 2) responsible for making sure my dog \*sees\* the obstacle. In most cases, if I am in the correct position all I have to do is say my dog's name and that will bring the correct obstacle into his field of view. Combining dog and handler responsibilities achieves the desired effect:

In my system my dog is taught to assume that he's to take what's closest to me. That allows me to move in the direction I want \*after\* the jump, as he approaches it. Look at the following example. (FIG. 1 at right)

The left diagram shows how I would handle the three jumps into the left end of the tunnel. I use lateral motion to the left on the approach to the #3 jump to cue the left turn, whether as a rear cross or a push. The middle example shows how a more verbal system might work, with handler using a verbal Out or Left to override his body language (which indicates the right tunnel). For my system to work, my dog must assume he is to take the obstacles closest to me which means I do NOT do what's shown in the 3rd example. To do so, even just on occasion, would not be consistent.

Another example of how a motion based system would differ from a verbal system is shown in FIG. 2 at right:

My system is proactive. By that I mean that I am responsible for cueing my dog \*before\* each obstacle, on the approach, to where he is going \*after\*. Other systems are reactive. In a reactive system the dog does not know where he is going until he is performing or completing an obstacle. Usually systems that rely on shoulder direction and/or verbals as the primary cues are reactive.

FIG 1

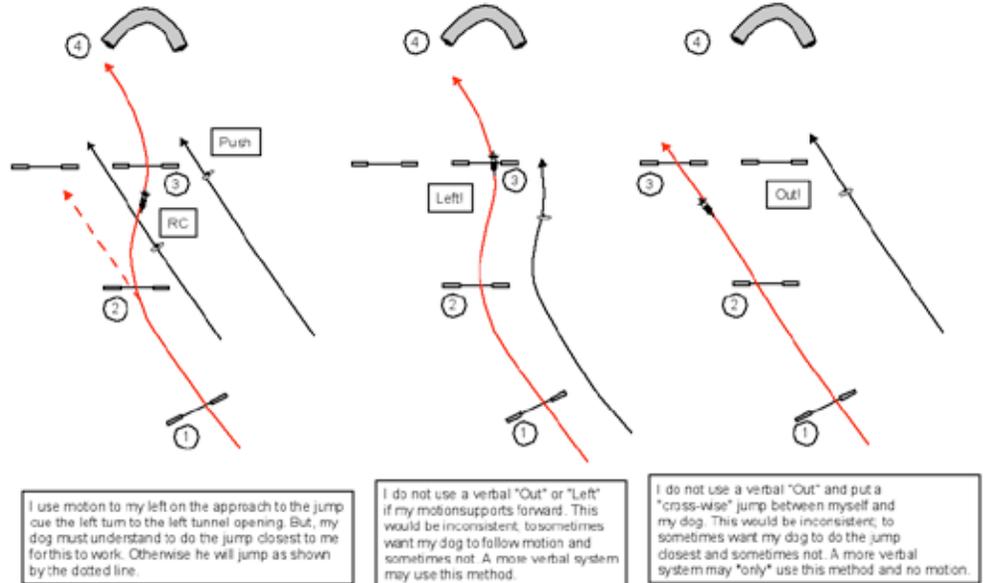
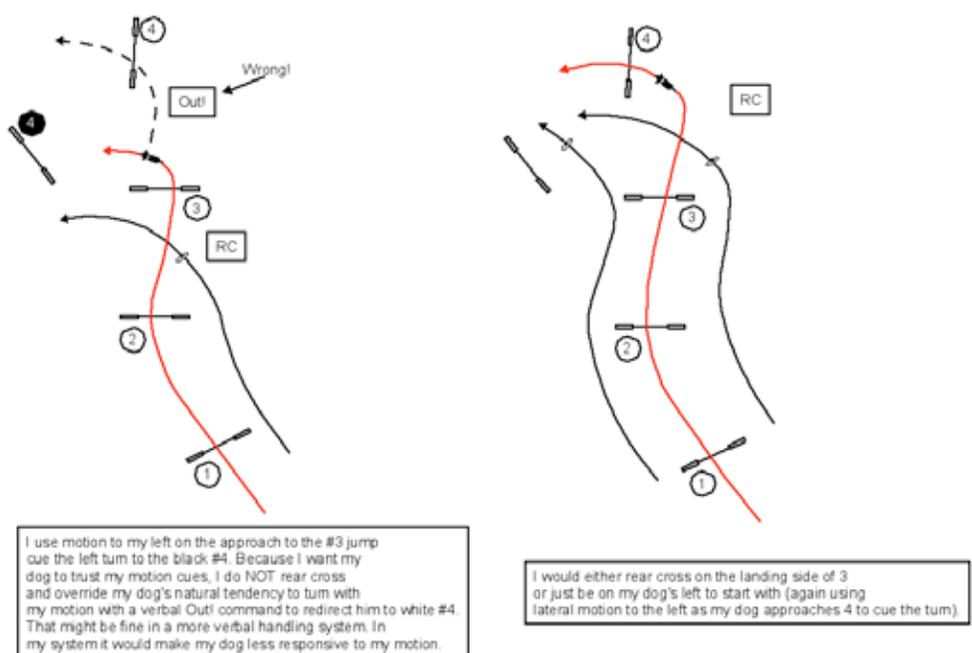


FIG 2



It is not easy to devise a logical system that works and is consistent. I've been working on mine for 7-8 \*years\* (believe me it doesn't happen in just a couple of months). A system needs to be adaptable to many types of dog/handler teams and it needs to be flexible enough to be modifiable as course design trends change and the sport continues to evolve. For example, in the version of my system that Nifty and Awesome learned, they were not supposed to take an obstacle unless directed to do so. That didn't necessarily mean verbally, but it did mean I had to tell my dog, in some way, to take each obstacle. They were not to assume

they were to take anything. That put a lot of responsibility on me as the handler, but it did afford me a high degree of accuracy. With Stellar and Super, the system was modified so that they have been trained to \*assume\* they are to take what's in front of them and my cues for each obstacle are much more nonspecific. It still puts a lot of responsibility on me as a handler because I have always got to present them with the correct obstacle :), but it helps me achieve more speed because I have to do less obstacle management. One way is not right or wrong, they are just \*different\*. Both are effective. But it is important to understand

that they *are* different. While I wouldn't think twice about heeling Awesome past a jump, I would not do that with Stellar....and, as I found at USDAA Nationals this year, while I can just assume Stellar will do a jump because its right in front of him, but without being directed to do so Awesome might just run right around it <g.

I just think a lot of us could benefit from learning --by example -- how to spot handling inconsistencies.

It is difficult to spot inconsistencies in someone's else's system without knowing the system.

Linda M.

A post script:

All dogs start out with motion as the most powerful cue. That's why I prefer to use it in my system rather than to train them to do be more responsive to some other cue. When I say I use motion as my primary cue that is *my* choice, not the dogs'. I use motion with *all* dogs I handle.

A motion based system will indeed present a problem when presented with situations where you can't move. A verbal system is more likely to succeed. I have found that dogs can learn to "switch" however; I run a dog that does not belong to me and she runs on a verbal system with her owner and motion system with me. The basic cues are all the same, but the relative emphasis on each cue is different. She gets it. Perhaps it is like someone that speaks both English and Spanish :)

BTW I didn't list *everything* that makes my system work in that other post...remember it was greatly simplified. But I will add that I do teach my dogs that on "nonturning" obstacles like contacts, bent tunnels and weaves they should complete obstacle performance once committed, independent of motion... otherwise I'd never be able to cross behind the poles or move laterally away from a contact and stuff like that. That's not the case on straight tunnels, chutes and jumps where I need to cue direction upon completion as the dog approaches, and want my dog to cue off the motion.

The other thing to remember is that you certainly want to try to maintain consistency as much as possible... but imo lightning won't bolt from the skies and strike you down if you *infrequently* deviate from perfect consistency of cues as long as you are aware of it and the effect it may have. What is more worrisome is the inconsistencies you are *not* aware of. Imo we are working with dogs, not machines, and it is sometimes necessary, even logical, to improvise. Just do so within your system as best you can.

Linda

For more info on my handling system watch for <http://www.awesomepaws.us> coming soon...how cool is that? :)

## NEW MEMBERS

*compiled by Cynthia Gilliland*

We have a new member from "the other side of the pond"! **John Sims** has joined NOMAD. He has been taking classes at the Clinton County Canine Club with his young dog **Finn**. Finn is not quite ready to join NOMAD as a canine member, but will join us in the future! We met John and Finn at the Elicia Calhoun Beginners Seminar on Friday.

## NOMAD USDAA TRIAL

*from Lynne von Trapp*

Our NOMAD USDAA June 16/17 trial premium is ready to be downloaded from the USDAA website: [http://www.usdaa.com/events\\_detail.cfm?event\\_no=103294](http://www.usdaa.com/events_detail.cfm?event_no=103294)

Although the closing date isn't until June 4, and entries are unlimited, it's a good idea to get it in early and avoid a last minute frantic drive to the post office. You'll sleep better.

Remember to make your motel reservations early. There is a big choral festival in Stowe that weekend, which will book many rooms.

Consider coming up to the Trapp Family Lodge Concert Meadow Saturday evening for a wonderful concert. A children's choir from Minneapolis directed by one of my childhood friends will be singing at the trial Saturday morning. They are very excited about singing and then watching the trial till they go to their massed choir rehearsal.



*Elicia and BreaSee  
What is she trying  
to say?*



### PHOTOGRAPHS FROM THE ELICIA CALHOUN SEMINAR

Photographs elsewhere in this issue are also from the seminar.



*photo by John Simms*

*Cynthia & Heather*



*photo by John Simms*

*Jane & Boomer*



*photo by John Simms*

*Lisanne & Sally*

I have to say that Elicia has the ability to really TEACH us stubborn NOMADERS! On Friday, She was able in one day to make sure that the right handling info got into our heads that by the end of the day, every dog participating was able to be 100% successful!!!! Even those of us who thought our dogs were to blame for not enough training, not enough speed, not enough whatever, were shown that with the right handling at the right time, every dog there was fast, accurate and able to run the course faultlessly. It was an amazing demonstration of what we as handlers need to know and do in order to bring out the very best in our wonderful dogs. Elicia pulled no punches. She knew how thick headed most of us were and threatened to do awful things to us if we continued to handle our dogs so badly. I was told that she would put my face in the dirt and make me eat it if I continued to do ----- !!!!! one more time. She threatened to pull someones hat down over their eyes and make them run blind as they were expecting their dog to do!!! Her threats were heeded in every instance! All bad handling became good handling and it was like a miracle happened to see the improvement in the dog's performance I cannot say enough about how excellent Elicia is as a teacher, and as a gifted trainer and agility strategist. She is always willing to share all her latest ideas and techniques with us and the results showed. In the puppy class on Friday I learned some great ways to get Suni focussed on the obstacles and course and away from me.

Thanks again so much for everything seminar committee and fellow Nomaders. A HUGE thanks to Elicia for coming to the frozen Northland to help us become better agility handlers!!!! I am looking forward to the next seminar with her hopefully soon. -Maxine

We did have to do a few jumping jacks on Monday, but thank goodness, we did not have to do the push-ups she had threatened!

Elicia's "Get on Board" Article is in the most recent Clean Run. I think she said we could email her with any questions after we had a chance to read it.

I don't think I will be as worried the next time I see a threadle or 270 on course, after the evil sequences (and double 270s!) that we all handled successfully with Elicia's help.

Cynthia & Charles, Heather, Ivy, and Rosie

# BRAGS

**February 18, All Dog's CPE Trial,  
Manchester, NH**

**Cynthia Gilliland and Heather**

Level 5 Jackpot, 16 in. \_\_\_\_\_ 2nd and Q

Level 5 Jumpers, 16 in. \_\_\_\_\_ Q

**Feb. 24, Riverside CPE Trial, Nashua, NH**

**Cynthia Gilliland and Heather**

Level 5 Jackpot, 16 in. \_\_\_\_\_ 1st and Q

Level 5 Snooker, 16 in. \_\_\_\_\_ 2nd and Q

Level 5 Colors, 16 in. \_\_\_\_\_ 1st and Q

**March 25; New Brunswick Kennel Club  
AKC trial; Edison, NJ**

**Ashley Fischer and Whoopee**

8" Open JWW \_\_\_\_\_ 1st, Q and OAJ title



*Ashley and Spike*



*Lynne & Chance*

**[ravencypher.blogspot.com/](http://ravencypher.blogspot.com/)**

This is an address for a blog that describes a seminar by Greg Derrett.  
There is a menu on the right for Chapter 2, Chapter 3 and Chapter 4

**<http://www.mouwen.nl/agility/belastingbehendigheid/indexbelbehen.htm>**

This is an interesting discussion of the physical loads in agility.

# COMING EVENTS CALENDAR

Compiled by Cheryl French as of 3/24/07

## APRIL 2007

**April 21-22; AKC;** Open to all purebreds; Burlington Obedience Training Club; Sports & Fitness Edge of Williston, 115 Wellness Drive, Williston, VT; Classes: All Classes/All Levels; Limit: 350 per day; Opens: 2/12/07; Closes: 4/7/07.

**April 28-29; USDAA;** Open to all dogs; K9Logix; Franklin County Fairgrounds, Wisdom Way, Greenfield, MA; Limit: Unlimited; Classes: Standard, Jumpers, Gamblers, Snooker, Pairs Relay; Level Restrictions: Starters/PI and Advanced/PII Only; Contact: Sharon Wirant, 59 Aldrich Rd., Westmoreland, NH 03467, 603-399-4813; Email: events@k9logix.com ; Website: www.k9logix.com and www.usdaa.com .

**April 27-29; DOCNA;** Open to all dogs; Flying High Agility at Sugarbush Farm; Sugarbush Farm, Stephentown, NY; Opens: 3/1/07; Closes: 4/14/07; Limit: 325 per day; Classes: All Classes/All Levels; Contact: Janet Weyers, 124 Gale Rd., Williamstown, MA 01267, 413-458-3646; Email: janet@flyinghighagility.com ; Website: www.flyinghighagility.com .

**April 28-29; AKC;** Open to all purebreds; Scottish Terrier Club of New England; Crackerbarrel Fairgrounds, Emerald St., Wrentham, MA; Opens: TBD; Closes: 4/7/07; Limit: Unlimited; Contact: Trial Secretary: Noreen Bennett, 1 West St., Belchertown, MA 01007, 413-283-4490; Email: noreen@pawprinttrials.com; Website: www.pawprinttrials.com .

**April 28-29; CPE;** Open to all dogs; AgileDogs Agility Training; Shatford Park, Rte. 22, New Lebanon, NY; Opens: 2/13/07; Closes: 4/16/07; Limit: 475 per day; Classes: All Classes/All Levels; Email: trisha@agiledogs.net ; Website: www.agiledogs.net/trials.htm .

**April 28-29; CPE;** Open to all dogs; Bo-Gee Agility; Deerfield, NH; Limit: Unlimited; Closes: 4/11/07; Trial Secretary: Trial Secretary Services, Judy Davis; Email: tss@trialsecretary.com ; Websites: www.trialsecretary.com ; Big discount for mailing entries by 3/12.

## MAY 2007

**May 5-6; NADAC;** Open to all dogs; Northeast Agility Enthusiasts; Franklin County Fairgrounds, Greenfield, MA; Limit: Unknown; Contact: Erin Ayres Wajda, 479 Taborton Rd., Sand Lake, NY 12153; Email: trialsec@northeastagility.com ; NAE@northeastagility.com ; Website: www.northeastagility.com .

**May 5-6; USDAA;** Open to all dogs; ACE Agility Club; Dufresne Park, Granby, MA; Limit: Unlimited; Email: ray.wheeler@the-spa.com .

**May 5-6; AKC;** Open to all purebreds; Talcott Mountain Agility Club; Westfield Fairgrounds, Westfield, MA; Opens: 2/28/07; Closes: 4/14/07; Limit: 660; Contact: Trial Secretary: Noreen Bennett, 1 West St., Belchertown, MA 01007, 413-283-4490; Email: noreen@pawprinttrials.com; Website: www.pawprinttrials.com .

**May 12; USDAA;** Open to all dogs; All Dogs Agility; All Dogs Gym and Inn, 505 Sheffield Rd., Manchester, NH; Limit: Unlimited; Classes: Standard, Jumpers, Gamblers, Snooker, Pairs Relay, Steeplechase Qualifier, Other - Performance Speed Jumping Qualifier; Level Restrictions: Novice/PI and Advanced/PII only; Trial Sec.: Judy Davis, Trial Secretary Services, tss@trialsecretary.com ; Website: www.alldogsgym.com .

**May 12-13; CPE;** Open to all dogs; JAZZ Agility Club; High Goal Farm, Greenwich, NY; Limit: Unknown; Classes: All Classes/All Levels; Contact: Julie Belles; Email: crkrjkkd@aol.com ; Website: JAZZAgility.com .

**May 12-13; NADAC;** Open to all dogs; Northeast Agility Enthusiasts; Franklin County Fairgrounds, Greenfield, MA; Limit: Unknown; Contact: Erin Ayres Wajda, 479 Taborton Rd., Sand Lake, NY 12153; Email: trialsec@northeastagility.com ; NAE@northeastagility.com ; Website: www.northeastagility.com .

**May 12-13; AKC;** Open to all purebreds; Providence County Kennel Club; Crackerbarrel Fairgrounds, Emerald St., Wrentham, MA; Opens: 3/7/07; Closes: 4/21/07; Limit: 660; Contact: Trial Secretary: Noreen Bennett, 1 West St., Belchertown, MA 01007, 413-283-4490; Email: noreen@pawprinttrials.com; Website: www.pawprinttrials.com .

**May 19-20; AKC;** Open to all purebreds; Lab Ret of Greater Boston and Colonial Shetland Sheepdog Club; Crackerbarrel Fairgrounds, Emerald St., Wrentham, MA; Opens: 3/21/07; Closes: 4/28/07; Limit: 660; Contact: Trial Secretary: Noreen Bennett, 1 West St., Belchertown, MA 01007, 413-283-4490; Email: noreen@pawprinttrials.com; Website: www.pawprinttrials.com .

**May 19-20; CPE;** Open to all dogs; SoBAD; Dufresne Park, Granby, MA; Limit: 700 per day; Classes: All Classes/All Levels; Website: www.sobadagility.com .

**May 19-20; USDAA;** Open to all dogs; NEAT; Wakeda Campgrounds, Exeter Rd., Hampton Fall, NH; Open: 3/1/07; Closes: 4/30/07; Limit: Unlimited; Classes: All Classes/All Levels, Grand Prix Qualifier, Performance, Junior Handler; Contact: Tina Bayer, PO Box 494, Stratham, NH 03885-0494; Email: NEATrial@verizon.net ; Website: www.neatclub.com .

**May 26-27; ASCA;** Open to all dogs; ASCNE; Hopkinton Fairgrounds, Contoocook, NH; Limit: 350 per day; Classes: Regular, Jumper, Gamblers - Retired Exhibition (Sat.); Pre-Novice; Contact: Jean Janotta, 24 Country View Drive, Raymond, NH 03077, 603-895-5436; Email: jjanotta@verizon.net ; Website: http://67.15.203.23/~ascne206/calendar.htm .

**May 26-27; CPE;** Open to all dogs; North East Miniature Australian Shepherd Club; Westminister, VT; Closes: 5/22/07; Limit: 350 runs; Classes: Sat & Sun, Standard, Colors, Wildcard, Snooker, Jackpot, FullHouse; Contact: Leslie Bickel; Email: leslie.bickel@mmigenomics.com ; Website: www.nemasc.org .

**May 26-28; USDAA;** Open to all dogs; Y Agility; Yadoo Showgrounds, Union Ave., Saratoga Springs, NY; Closes: 5/7/07; Limit: Unlimited; Classes: All Classes/All Levels, Standard, Jumpers, Gamblers, Snooker, Pairs Relay, Team Relay; Contact: Donna Young, 4 Haber Way, Castleton, NY 12033, 518-732-2180; Email: yagility@nycap.rr.com ; Website: www.usdaa.com .

**May 26-28; AKC;** Open to all purebreds; LEAP Agility Club; Dufresne Park, Granby, MA; Opens: 3/14/07; Closes: 5/5/07; Limit: 750; Contact: Trial Secretary: Noreen Bennett, 1 West St., Belchertown, MA 01007, 413-283-4490; Email: noreen@pawprinttrials.com; Website: www.pawprinttrials.com .

## JUNE 2007

**June 2-3; NADAC;** Open to all dogs; In The Zone Agility; Fryeburg County Fairgrounds, Fryeburg, ME; Limit: Unlimited; Contact: Lisa Bonker; Email: Impshd@yahoo.com . Website: inthezoneagility.com .

**June 2-3; AKC;** Open to all purebreds; Norwegian Elkhound Minuteman Assoc., Westford, MA; Opens: 3/14/07; Closes: 5/16/07; Runs: 660; Contact: Trial Secretary: Noreen Bennett, 1 West St., Belchertown, MA 01007, 413-283-4490; Email: noreen@pawprinttrials.com; Website: www.pawprinttrials.com .

**June 8-10; AKC;** Open to all purebreds; Southern Berkshire Golden Retriever Club, Westfield, MA; Opens: 4/11/07; Closes: 5/19/07; Runs: 660; Contact: Trial Secretary: Noreen Bennett, 1 West St., Belchertown, MA 01007, 413-283-4490; Email: noreen@pawprinttrials.com; Website: www.pawprinttrials.com .

**June 9-10; USDAA;** Open to all dogs; Canine Agility Training Society; Wheelock Park, Park Ave., Keene, NH; Limit: Unlimited; Classes: All Classes/All Levels, Local GP Qualifier; Trial Sec.: Judy Davis, Trial Secretary Services, tss@trialsecretary.com ; Website: www.alldogsgym.com .

June 11-12; **AKC**; Open to all purebreds; May-flower Pembroke Welsh Corgi Club; Westford, MA; Opens: TBD; Closes: TBD; Runs: 660; Contact: Trial Secretary: Noreen Bennett, 1 West St., Belchertown, MA 01007, 413-283-4490; Email: noreen@pawprinttrials.com; Website: www.pawprinttrials.com .

**June 16-17; NADAC**; Open to all dogs; Northeast Agility Enthusiasts; Washington County Fairgrounds, Greenwich, NY; Limit: Unknown; Contact: Erin Ayres Wajda, 479 Taborton Rd., Sand Lake, NY 12153; Email: trialsec@northeastagility.com ; Website: www.northeastagility.com .

**June 16-17; AKC**; Open to all purebreds; Northshore Kennel Club, Topsfield, MA; Opens: 4/18/07; Closes: 5/26/07; Runs: 660; Contact: Trial Secretary: Noreen Bennett, 1 West St., Belchertown, MA 01007, 413-283-4490; Email: noreen@pawprinttrials.com; Website: www.pawprinttrials.com .

**June 16-17; USDAA**; Open to all dogs; NOMAD; TopNotch Meadow, Mountain Rd., Rte. 108, Stowe, VT; Limit: Unlimited; Classes: All Classes/All Levels; Email: mytmutts@yahoo.com ; Website: www.nomadagility.com .

**June 17-18; CPE**; Open to all dogs; AgileDogs Agility Training; Shatford Park, Rte. 22, New Lebanon, NY; Limit: 700 per day; Classes: All Classes/All Levels; Email: trisha@agiledogs.net ; Website: www.agiledogs.net/trials.htm .

**June 22-24; AKC**; Open to all purebreds; Collie Club of ME, Cumberland, ME; Opens: 4/18/07; Closes: 6/2/07; Runs: 660; Contact: Trial Secretary: Noreen Bennett, 1 West St., Belchertown, MA 01007, 413-283-4490; Email: noreen@pawprinttrials.com; Website: www.pawprinttrials.com .

**June 22-24; USDAA**; Open to all dogs; Y Agility, The Blackthorne Resort, 348 Sunside Rd., East Durham, NY; Limit: Unlimited; Closes: 6/4/07; All Classes/All Levels; Contact: Donna Young, 4 Haber Way, Castleton, NY 12033, 518-732-2180; Email: yagility@nycap.rr.com ; Website: www.usdaa.com .

**June 23-24; CPE**; Open to all dogs; Bo-Gee Agility; Deerfield Fairgrounds, Deerfield, NH; Limit: Unlimited; Email: bo-gee@juno.com ; Trial Secretary: Judy Davis, Trial Secretary Services, tss@trialsecretary.com ; Website: www.trialsecretary.com .

**June 23-24; DOCNA**; Open to all dogs; JAZZ Agility, High Goal Farms, 68 Louse Hill Rd., Greenwich, NY; Contact: Debbie Wlodarski, PO Box 3127, Schenectady, NY 12303, 518-346-7988; Email: dwlodars@nycap.rr.com ; Website: JazzAgilityClub.com .

**June 30-July 1; AKC**; Open to all purebreds; Albany Obedience Club; Glenmont, NY; Opens: 5/2/07; Closes: 6/16/07; Runs: 500; Contact: Trial Secretary: Noreen Bennett, 1 West St., Belchertown, MA 01007, 413-283-4490; Email: noreen@pawprinttrials.com; Website: www.pawprinttrials.com .

**June 30-July 1; NADAC**; Open to all dogs; Northeast Agility Enthusiasts; Washington County Fairgrounds, Greenwich, NY; Limit: Unknown; Contact: Erin Ayres Wajda, 479 Taborton Rd., Sand Lake, NY 12153; Email: trialsec@northeastagility.com ; Website: www.northeastagility.com .

**June 30-July 1; CPE**; Open to all dogs; All Dogs Gym, Manchester, NH; Closes 6/1/07; Limit: 375 Runs per Day; Contact: Sue Fountaine, 603-627-7322; Email: miniaussies5@comcast.net ; Website: www.alldogsgym.com .

## JULY 2007

**July 7-8; AKC**; Open to all purebreds; Yankee Golden Retriever Club; Sportszone Area, 7 "A" Street, Derry, NH; Opens: 5/9/07; Closes: 6/16/07; Runs: 660; Contact: Trial Secretary: Noreen Bennett, 1 West St., Belchertown, MA 01007, 413-283-4490; Email: noreen@pawprinttrials.com; Website: www.pawprinttrials.com .

**7/13-7/15; USDAA**; Open to all dogs; Riverside Canine Center; Middlesex County 4-H Fairgrounds, Westford, MA; Classes: All Classes/All Levels; Closes: 6/22/07; Trial Secretary: Valori Duff, 252 Boynton St., Manchester, NH 03102; Website: www.usdaa.com .

**July 21-22; AKC**; Open to all purebreds; Collie Club of New England; Dufresne Park, Granby, MA; Opens: 5/23/07; Closes: 6/30/07; Runs: 660; Contact: Trial Secretary: Noreen Bennett, 1 West St., Belchertown, MA 01007, 413-283-4490; Email: noreen@pawprinttrials.com; Website: www.pawprinttrials.com .

**July 27-29; AKC**; Open to all purebreds; Green Mountain Golden Retriever Club; Sports & Fitness Edge of Williston, 115 Wellness Dr., Williston, VT; Opens: 5/30/07; Closes: 7/7/07; Runs: 330; Contact: Trial Secretary: Noreen Bennett, 1 West St., Belchertown, MA 01007, 413-283-4490; Email: noreen@pawprinttrials.com; Website: www.pawprinttrials.com .

**The above listed events are in the following states within a reasonable driving distance for most of us: MA, ME, NH, NY and VT. Please note for some events full information is not yet available. Please contact Cheryl French (Cheryl.P.French@comcast.net) with any corrections of the events. Sources include www.cleanrun.com, www.akc.org, www.trialsecretary.com, www.pawprinttrials.com and various other sources.**



*Fiona's jumping jacks—trying to stay warm.*



*Fiona and Blaze*



c/o Caroline McKinney  
911 Elmore Mt. Rd.  
Morrisville, VT 05661

Send letters and articles  
by the 22nd of the month.  
MayaMck@pshitt.com