



**Rochester MN
Kennel Club
www.rmkc.8m.com**

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RMKC Newsletter

March 2009

AKC Introduces S.T.A.R. Puppy Program

The AKC S.T.A.R. Puppy is a new program designed to get dog owners and their puppies off to a good start. The AKC S.T.A.R. Puppy Program is an incentive program for loving dog owners who have taken the time to take their puppies through a basic training class. The program is the puppy level of the AKC's well-known Canine Good Citizen® program; "S.T.A.R." stands for **S**ocialization, **T**raining, **A**ctivity and a **R**esponsible owner, all of the things a puppy needs to have a good life. All dogs are welcome to participate in the AKC S.T.A.R. Puppy Program, including purebreds and mixed breeds.



How It Works

When owners complete a basic training class (taught by an AKC Approved CGC Evaluator) with their puppy (up to 1 year old) the puppy is eligible to be enrolled in the program.

Owners attend a puppy or basic training class at least 6 weeks. The instructor will administer the AKC S.T.A.R. Puppy test at the end of the course. Upon passing the test, owners get an application to send to AKC for enrollment in the S.T.A.R. Puppy Program. The puppy will receive the AKC S.T.A.R. Puppy Medal. Owners and their puppy will be listed in the AKC S.T.A.R. Puppy records. In addition, so that they can continue learning, owners receive a package that includes: a certificate designating the puppy is in the AKC S.T.A.R. Puppy records at AKC, AKC Puppy Handbook, discount to enroll in AKC Companion Animal Recovery Corporation, & an ongoing monthly email newsletter that includes training tips and up-to-date information.

For more information, go to www.akc.org/starpuppy/

There will be a Board meeting in March at 6:00, prior to the General Membership meeting.



Monthly Meeting Information:
 Date: 2nd Monday of each month Time: 7 pm
 Location: Good Shepherd Lutheran Church ~ 559 20th St SW, Rochester, MN
 Directions from downtown Rochester: South on Broadway to 20th St SW (Kwik Trip on the corner) - turn right (W) - go approximately 5 blocks to top of hill - church is on the right, set back from the street.
(During the months of February, August, & December meetings are typically held "off-site" due to special club events - watch the newsletter for location changes).

Bits & Pieces...

Upcoming Shows & Trials:

- Fargo-Moorhead Kennel Club - AKC Obedience & Rally Trials - Apr 4 & 5 at Canine Academy - Trial Secretary Linda Wolter - closes March 18
- AKC National Obedience Invitational Regional Qualifier - Apr 24-26 at St Paul Dog Training Club - Trial Secretary Cindy O'Hare (Dog Shows By Design) - closes Apr 8
- Indianhead KC All-Breed & Obedience - Apr 4 & 5 in Eau Claire, WI - closes March 18
- SE Iowa KC All-breed show - April 12 & 13 in Ottumwa, IA - closes March 25
- Waterloo KC All-breed & Obedience - April 18 & 19 in Waterloo, IA - closes April 1
- Fond du Lac County KC All-breed & Obedience - April 18 & 19 in Fond du Lac, WI - closes April 1
- Heart of Iowa KC All-breed & Obedience - April 25 & 26 in Marshalltown, IA - closes April 8

Upcoming Matches:

- C&E Dog Training Center in New Hope, MN is having an AKC sanctioned B All-breed Obedience Only Match on Sunday, March 15 from 9 am to 2 pm - entry fee is \$8 - match secretary is CJ Ronyak (763-572-0808)

Acquiring a dog may be the only time a person gets to choose a relative

U OF M COLLEGE OF VETERINARY MEDICINE INTRODUCES COLLABORATIVE CANCER PROGRAM

MINNEAPOLIS/ST. PAUL (February 27, 2009) - The University of Minnesota College of Veterinary Medicine, in conjunction with the University's Masonic Cancer Center, has established a new Animal Cancer Care and Research (ACCR) program.

This collaboration is unique in the United States because it incorporates the ACCR program into the Masonic Cancer Center, one of only 41 National Cancer Institute-designated Comprehensive Cancer Centers in the United States.

"We believe it will become the premier model for animal cancer care and research," says Dr. Trevor Ames, dean of the College of Veterinary Medicine.

Within five years Ames says he expects the University of Minnesota to be recognized as the best institution in the country for conducting research in comparative oncology and providing care for companion animals with cancer.

"ACCR scientists have already made significant discoveries," says Ames. "One particularly noteworthy finding is that many cancers in the dog are caused by the same genetic abnormalities found in humans."

The mission of the ACCR program is ambitious: To advance knowledge in cancer biology that can be translated and implemented into treatment that will reduce the incidence of cancer and improve the outcome for animal and human cancer patients.

"The ACCR program is a key part of our Comparative Medicine Signature Program at the University," says Dr. Robert Washabau, who chairs the Department of Veterinary Clinical Sciences. "Cancer claims the lives of animals as well as humans, and research into the causes

and treatments of cancer is often applicable across species."

The ACCR program draws its expertise primarily from scientists in the College of Veterinary Medicine and the Masonic Cancer Center, but ACCR scientists also work closely with the Medical School, School of Pharmacy, and School of Public Health.

"Great synergies can be achieved when veterinarians, physicians, and scientists with complementary expertise join forces to tackle the types of cancer shared by dogs and humans," says Dr. Jaime Modiano, director of the ACCR program.

"ACCR researchers are currently working to define breed- and disease-specific 'Achilles' heels' in dogs. These findings could then be translated into more effective and less toxic cancer treatments. The implications could reach far beyond dogs and veterinary medicine."

Modiano's laboratory is one of three research labs involved in the program. Modiano holds the Alvin S. and June Perlman Endowed Chair in Animal Oncology and is a member of the Masonic Cancer Center's Genetic Mechanisms of Cancer and Immunology research programs.

ACCR scientists work on research in genetics, cancer prevention, stem cells, metastasis, and cell signaling. Many of these basic research findings are readily translated into cancer care including diagnostics, treatments, and quality of life.

"We can learn more about cancer by working together," says Douglas Yee, M.D., director, Masonic Cancer Center. "This program will advance our understanding of cancer in both animals and people."

For more information on the Animal Cancer Care and Research program please download a PDF of the ACCR newsletter, Synergy, at: www.cvm.umn.edu/accr.

RMKC General Membership Meeting, February 9, 2009

Members Present: Diana Mann, Pat Campbell, Vicki O'Neill, Barb Hartman, Carole Sorensen, Sandy Woodruff, and Fran Kornblum.

President Diana Mann called the meeting to order at 6:20 p.m.

Secretary's Report: There was no secretary's report. The January meeting of the RMKC consisted of a presentation from Royal Canine Dog Food Company. The presentation was very informative.

No Corresponding Secretary report.

No Treasurer's report.

Old Business:

2009 All Breed Show. Show committee met on Friday 1/30/2009. Topics discussed were as follows.

- All committee chairs are accounted for.
- Contracts with the city of Rochester are being placed
- AKC and Onofrio contracts are being worked on at present time.
- Trophy letter is now out and due back by March 13, 2009. Please ask your area Vets, local businesses for trophy donations.
- Judges are now hired.
- Best Bred by Exhibitor will be held on Saturday.

Please give any suggestions on cutting expenses to Show committee or club officers.

Agility Trial

- Everything is moving along well. Reminder that the trial is not Labor Day weekend, but the weekend before. Friday will be the Excellent classes similar to Monday's classes on previous years.

Canine Carnival

- RMKC to pay fee of \$375.00 to City of Rochester for permit.
 - Location will be by Mayo Civic Center by Arts Building.
 - Carole will check to see if fee includes Port-A-Potties, trash cans and bleachers.
 - Amy Lawson will demo grooming, teeth cleaning and nail care.
 - Photographer Auntie Emm will be present for photographs
- Rochester Feed and Pet will be present with different products

Katie Bruesewitz has volunteered to give a presentation at the Dog Rehabilitation facility.

With no further business, motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Fran Kornblum, seconded by Sandy Woodruff. Meeting was adjourned at 6:50 p.m. Club members then enjoyed watching the Westminster Kennel Club show. A big thank you was extended to Carole for again opening her home to RMKC members

Respectfully Submitted,

Pat Campbell, Recording Secretary



Nightmare

This story recently appeared in the March 1 edition of The Dog Press (www.dogpress.com) & is an interesting commentary on the possible effects of the constant barrage of legislature that seems to be epidemic across the country right now.

In all your doggy dreams, what is your worst nightmare? Loosing your best brood bitch? Your Group winner is run over? C'mon, you can do better than that. Let me help you. They knock on your door. You are in violation of the Illinois State Kennel License Law. "What is that?" you ask innocently while your mind churns, is that what they called it online? No! It was The HSUS Dog Breeder License Act. What is the Animal Control guy saying? His voice is like a thousand rolls of thunder. "You are over the legal limit of three un-spayed females, you sold a dog without a permit, and you have a litter of puppies but we have a signed statement that your vet did not examine the mother dog prior to breeding. We are here to take your dogs." You can't remember how things got this far (dreams are often fuzzy and incomplete) but you clearly remember reading they can euthanize dogs. Kill them!!

You protest but the Animal Control Officer has backup. A Police Officer stands beside him and the local SPCA truck is in your driveway. You begin to panic, thinking of the Group-winning bitch here to be bred to your stud dog, oh no, and the 3-week old litter in the den. Your old boy is nudging the back of your knees, his cold nose the only touch of reality in this surreal nightmare. The AC officer is peeking around you at something. He thunders "You have two adult dogs in the house with a litter of puppies!" Oh My God! Another violation.

Suddenly you are running, running, gasping for breath, terrified, your legs getting weaker. They are right behind you, there's a cliff and you leap - and it feels like your thumb is broken. You look down and see your thumb being rolled back and forth by someone's hand. What?! You are being fingerprinted, just like on TV. Why didn't you go get that kennel license and let them do the criminal background check and fingerprint you then? You had nothing to hide. But wait, now you are standing at a counter writing check after check, paying stacks of license fees and fines and your broken thumb won't hold the pen right and they are coming to inspect you. You scream "Don't take my dogs!!!"

And you wake up, right hand crumpled under your cheek, thumb twisted in the necklace you forgot to remove. "Oh thank you Lord" you breathe deeply, still shaken. There's tapping on your bedroom door and your son says "Mom, what's wrong? Why were you yelling? Are you okay?" Groggy and trying to make light of it, you tell him it was just a bad dream, "a nightmare like you used to have...go back to bed honey. Everything is fine." Oh, but it's not. You can't sleep so you get up and go to the kitchen for milk. On second thought, might as well make it coffee. Switch on the pot, switch on the computer, switch on your brain.

It will be daylight soon and you'll call in sick. You sure can't afford it but you can't afford to let another day go by without going to the courthouse and asking for the kennel license application form. You can probably fill it out right there and pay with a credit card. Right. You'll sell Susie instead of spaying her to comply with that damn law. And the puppies will soon be ready to go and that incredible little boy will have to be sold too. You grapple with the per-dog fee on top of the yearly license and sighing, admit you just can't afford the luxury of keeping three males even if one of them is twelve years old. They make no allowance for old dogs.

Pouring coffee, you realize if you don't keep that little male, you'll have to ship Maggie because she can't be bred to Skipper, too close. How will you manage? And what will it be like, having inspectors come into your home poking around? Will it bother the kids? What about the shows? The handler has been wonderful to work with and Skipper has started to do really well in the Groups. Oh well, he'll just have to come home.

But what's the point? Suddenly you are overwhelmed and stirring the coffee, you start to sob. You love your dogs. They are part of the family. Your husband will be reassigned soon and be here with you. He can fix anything. And then, dropping your head in both hands and sobbing aloud, you realize there is not one damn thing he can do about a state law! He can go off and fight a war, he can put a rocket together and blow things up but he can't fight city hall, Animal Control, and the state of Illinois. They have won.

It's too late now. Gasping, tears streaming, your mind repeats the running, running, and suddenly you realize who "they" are behind you. They are your worst nightmare. They are HSUS, PETA, and shaking your head, now you admit they were empowered by your own lack of initiative. By all the day-in, day-out things that seemed more important than writing letters, making calls, and getting to know your politicians on a first-hand basis.

Wiping your eyes, fumbling with a napkin to blow your nose, you sit alone with only your guilt to keep you company at 5:30 in the morning. Well, it's decision time. You get up and pour more coffee, reach for the cream absentmindedly. What to do? The answer is hard but obvious. Forget the courthouse today. Or any other day. Bring Skipper home, let the dogs go, all but three which is all they allow without a breeder or kennel license. Sell Skipper because two old dogs have to stay. Sell a bitch to co-own, get a puppy back later for the family but that's it, it's over. They won.

You stir the coffee, take a sip, resolved now. Yes, you can do this thing. It will hurt, like cutting off your arm but for sanity and your family, you have to get out of dogs. Then "they" will leave you alone, no more hiding dogs, no more nightmares.

Standing up, you force a smile, telling yourself "I'll be Miss Compliance, I won't worry about animal control, the humane society, AR legislation. No more crazy laws. I have rights. They will leave me alone and everything will be fine."

Your nightmare is just beginning.