



# RMKC Newsletter

March 2011

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

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## March Meeting Program

The program for the March meeting will be presented by Joanne Martin, J.D., who is a Legal Counsel with the Mayo Clinic Legal Dept. Joanne is also a dog owner & will be presenting information on estate planning for pet owners/dog show people.

The program will begin at 7 pm, & will be followed by a business meeting.

## 15th AKC National Agility Championship Draws Record-Breaking

**Number of Entries** [Tuesday, March 01, 2011]

**– More Than 1,000 Dogs Will Compete April 1-3, 2011 at the Virginia Horse Center in Lexington, VA –**

The 2011 AKC National Agility Championship (NAC), sponsored by Eukanuba and J & J Dog Supplies, has drawn a total of 1,136 entries, the largest entry total in the 15-year history of the event. The 2011 entry grew 17% overall when compared to 2010 totals, including a 22% increase in the Preferred classes.

“We look forward to welcoming the nation’s top agility competitors to this beautiful site in Virginia for our biggest and best AKC National Agility Championships yet,” said AKC Director of Agility Carrie DeYoung. “In addition to our growing entries, we are also very excited to be able to welcome for the first time two All-American dogs to our Championship competition. We wish all of our entrants the best of luck.”

For the first time ever, the American Kennel Club will use Twitter to publish real-time results of every run in every ring, making AKC the first dog sport organization to use the service in this manner. At the conclusion of each dog’s run, a “tweet” will be sent to one of five Twitter accounts (one for each ring) posting that dog’s time, score, and any faults incurred. In addition, at the conclusion of a jump height’s round, a complete set of PDF results will be posted both to Twitter (<http://www.twitter.com/AKCNACResults>) and AKC’s Facebook page (<http://www.facebook.com/AmericanKennelClub>).

Followers will feel like they are sitting in the bleachers and exhibitors will be able to quickly check where each ring is at in the running order by following one or all of the rings on Twitter: [www.twitter.com/AKCRing1](http://www.twitter.com/AKCRing1), [www.twitter.com/AKCRing2](http://www.twitter.com/AKCRing2), [www.twitter.com/AKCRing3](http://www.twitter.com/AKCRing3), [www.twitter.com/AKCRing4](http://www.twitter.com/AKCRing4), [www.twitter.com/AKCRing5](http://www.twitter.com/AKCRing5).

A full run order listing of exhibitor’s names, dog’s call names, armband #s and ring #s will be posted to AKC’s National Agility Championship’s web page Thursday afternoon prior to the event weekend. All final results, courses and pictures will be posted each day on the AKC National Championship website.

Also bookmark the AKC Facebook page to stay on top of the latest event updates; exhibitor interviews, photos and videos; and behind-the scenes information and results during the competition itself. RSVP to the AKC National Agility Championship Event Page and you won’t miss a thing! (*check out Page 2 for a breakdown of the entries*)

### 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).*

### 2011 AKC National Agility Championship by the Numbers:

- 2 – All-American Dogs will participate for the first time since the [AKC Canine Partners](#) program began allowing mixed-breed dogs to participate in the AKC Companion events of Agility, Obedience and Rally.
- 5 – Rings of competition with real-time results via Twitter.
- 13 - Juniors Handlers, under the age of 18, the highest Junior entry ever.
- 23 – Past National Agility Champions entered.
- 750 – MACH (Master Agility Champion) Dogs competing, including one MACH16.
- 1,136 – Record-breaking entry total!

### Highest Breed Totals:

- 244 Border Collies
- 222 Shelties
- 66 Australian Shepherds
- 62 Golden Retrievers
- 45 Poodles
- 41 Pembroke Welsh Corgis

### Largest Numbers of Competitors By State:

- New Jersey: 91
- Illinois: 85
- Pennsylvania: 82
- Ohio: 75
- California: 67
- Virginia: 61
- Texas: 59
- Wisconsin: 52
- New York: 51
- North Carolina: 47

### Dogs Titled in Other Arenas:

- 95 Breed Champions
- One Triple Champion
- 5 Herding Champions
- 4 Obedience Champions

### Breakdown by Height Classes

#### Regular Classes:

- 8": 114 dogs
- 12": 227 dogs
- 16": 230 dogs
- 20": 290 dogs
- 24": 111 dogs
- 26": 62 dogs

### Preferred Classes:

- 4": 10 dogs
- 8": 21 dogs
- 12": 21 dogs
- 16": 30 dogs
- 20": 19 dogs

### More about the 2011 AKC Nat'l Agility Championship:

The 15th annual NAC will take place at the Virginia Horse Center in Lexington, VA on April 1, 2 & 3, 2011.

The AKC National Agility Championship consists of five rounds. The Excellent Jumpers with Weaves, Standard and Hybrid classes are open to all dogs. Round 4's Challenger's Class will be open only to the top four dogs per jump height as determined by the previous three rounds. The top 7% of all Regular dogs entered and the top 7% of all Preferred dogs entered will move on to the Championship Round (Round 5).

## Dog Poop Powers Park Lights

By Olivia Solon (from *Wired Science* - Sept 15, 2010)

Conceptual artist Matthew Mazzotta is using dog feces to power lampposts in a park in Cambridge, Massachusetts. Mazzotta's [Project Park Spark](#), which was funded through MIT and created in partnership with the City of Cambridge, comprises a special "methane digester" that converts freshly scooped poop into methane.

Dog owners collect their dog waste in a special biodegradable bag and throw it into the digester -- an air-tight cylindrical container, where the dog feces are broken down by anaerobic bacteria. A byproduct from that process is methane, which can then be released through a valve and burnt as fuel. In this case it is being used to power an old-fashioned gas-burning lamppost in a park.

The artist is keen to make sure that the energy is used as the community wishes, and so in the next couple of weeks the Park Spark project will be a holding a number of design meetings to gather ideas from the community for how to best use the flame. Suggestions already include a shadow-projection box, a popcorn stand and a teahouse.

Currently when organic material (including dog waste, food and plant matter) goes into landfill, it releases methane into the atmosphere. Methane is a potent greenhouse gas that is approximately 23 times more harmful than carbon dioxide.

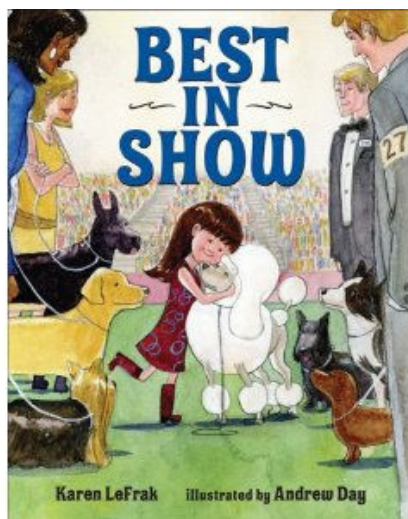
When it's burned in the presence of oxygen, it separates into carbon dioxide and water vapor, so businesses can actually earn carbon credits from burning off excess methane. As a result, the digesters are a good way to collect and use the volatile gas as a fuel.

In the future Mazzotta hopes to install permanent underground digesters in parks throughout the United States.



## Some more Winter Reading...

I found a note on this very newly published book in one of the recent dog magazines. Although I haven't read it yet, it sounds like a great book, written by a dog show person, to introduce children to the world of dog shows, & will be adding it to my "dog library".



**Best in Show** by *Karen LeFrak* (published by Walker Books for Young Readers - February 1, 2011)

PreSchool-Grade 2 - When Abby visits her aunt at the kennel where she works, she falls in love with the new poodle puppies- and one puppy in particular named Gem. Aunt Nancy invites Abby to help out at the kennel, and Abby's excited to work with the trainer, Wendell, teaching Gem all she needs to know to become a winning show dog. Soon it's the day of the biggest dog show of the year, and Abby and Gem will have to overcome the odds to show the judges that Gem is a true champion. Dog lovers, poodle fans, and anyone who enjoys dog shows will delight in this charming story that highlights the fun of competition and the love between a girl and her favorite pup.

**About the author:** (from an article in the *Huffington Post*, by Wendy Diamond - 2-17-11)

Poodles were the ninth most popular dog breed in 2010. Karen LeFrak, one of the world's most accomplished poodle parents, knows why America can't resist these fluffy, four-legged charmers. Karen is a dog enthusiast (loves poodles!), accomplished musician (concert pianist), best-selling author (check out her latest children's book, "[Best in Show](#)") and philanthropist (active in many of New York's major philanthropies). She also breeds and shows champion poodles. Her poodle "Miki" retired as America's No. 1 Standard Poodle with 88 Best in Show Titles (including ribbons at the Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show).

Karen's newest children's book, "Best in Show," teaches children what it takes to raise a champion show dog. Kids will fall in puppy love with Abby (the girl who loves fluffy white poodles) and Gem (the soon-to-be champion poodle). It's a great book for any child who loves pets. Let's see what life is like for Karen and her champion poodles:



**Your gorgeous Ch. Ale Kai Mikimoto on Fifth has won so many blue ribbons, including at Westminster! What is the show like and what is most exciting about it?**

**Karen:** I love seeing all my poodle pals and friends who come in from out-of-town for this show. It's my hometown, and I love showing it off too. We are competing this year with a close relative of Mikimoto. There will also be other Miki relatives in the ring, owned by others whom I will root for too! After all, family is family.

**Ch. Ale Kai Mikimoto the Fifth -- what a name! How did you come up that?**

**Karen:** My husband named Mikimoto for us. Miki's mother's was named Diamonds and Pearls, so my husband thought a big pearl on Fifth Avenue would be a "pawfect" choice! (Mikimoto Pearls are considered among the finest in the world.)

**If Mikimoto were a celebrity, who would he be?**

**Karen:** Louis the XIV, when he was in show trim. Now he's a blonde Gregory Peck -- tall, elegant and honest!

Other books by LeFrak: **Jake the Philharmonic Dog** (meant for Grades 1-2)  
**Jake the Ballet Dog** (meant for Grades K-3)