



RMKC Newsletter

May 2011

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

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Committee Chairs & other VIP's:

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2011 Agility Trial.....
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2011-2012 Officer & Board Member Nominations

The following is the slate of officers & board members was presented at the April General Membership meeting. No additional nominations from the floor were made; therefore, the slate will be voted on as a whole at the May meeting.

The slate is presented as follows:

President: Vicki O'Neill
Vice President: Pat Campbell
Secretary: Diana Mann
Treasurer: Caroline Baihly
Board Members: Linda Cornick (still has 1 year left on her term)
Barb Hartman & Ron Elshaug (new 2-year terms)

Remember that in order to cast a vote, you must have paid your 2010-2011 dues to Membership Chair Barb Hartman.

AKC CAR Canine Support and Relief Fund Accepting Donations for Disaster Relief in South

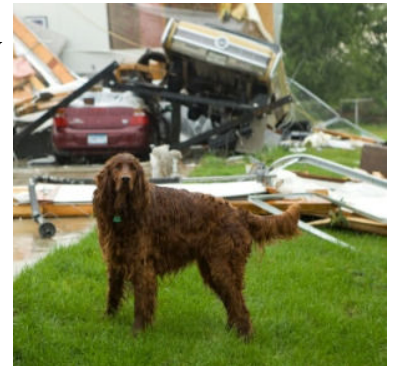
In light of the recent tornadoes across the South, many fanciers and concerned dog owners have asked us how they can help the companion animal victims of these storms.

Those interested in offering assistance can make contributions to the **AKC Companion Animal Recovery Canine Support and Relief Fund**. This fund was started in the wake of 9/11, and to date has donated more than \$3 million to search and rescue teams and for companion animal relief during natural disasters.

Funds will be used to address the needs of companion animals in the area and/or donated to appropriate relief organizations. The AKC is also working with AKC clubs in the affected areas.

A donation can be made at the AKC CAR website at this address:

https://www.akccar.org/donate/index.cfm?fund_type=KHRFUND - you will need to note that it is on behalf of "Tornado Relief" in the appropriate box.



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).

MAN DRUGGED RIVAL'S HUSKY AT WHEATON DOG SHOW

A 68-year-old Pennsylvania man is facing allegations he drugged a rival dog handler's Siberian husky at a kennel club show in Wheaton.

Ralph Ullum, of Claysville, Pa., is due in DuPage County court June 2 on misdemeanor charges of cruelty to animals and attempted criminal damage to property. If convicted, he faces up to a year in jail, prosecutors said Thursday.

Ullum is accused of feeding Protonix and possibly Benadryl - both drugs meant for humans - to Pixie, a Siberian husky competing against another Siberian husky, named Diana, owned by Ullum's girlfriend. The allegations stem from a Dec. 17 dog show at the DuPage County Fairgrounds in Wheaton.

According to a police report, Pixie's handler, Jessica Plourde of Newark Valley, N.Y., became suspicious when she noticed what appeared to be a crushed pink pill near Pixie's cage early on the second morning of the competition. Eventually, police said, several witnesses came forward saying they'd seen Ullum petting and feeding Pixie as Plourde showed other dogs.

A veterinarian at the show later induced Pixie to vomit, finding an undigested pill marked "Protonix" among other items, including dog food, pieces of chicken and a rubber band. Police also found a wadded up paper towel that contained a white substance and apparent pieces of pills in the men's bathroom trash.

Ullum acknowledged petting Pixie and using the restroom, but he denied feeding the dog or throwing anything in the trash, according to the police report. His attorney could not immediately be reached for comment.

Pixie was not seriously injured, and neither dog won their event. Plourde and Ullum's girlfriend had previously competed at several dog shows, authorities said.

Ullum told police he regularly helps his girlfriend show dogs, according to his arrest report. The American Kennel Club since has suspended his privileges, said Christina Duffney, the club's director of public relations.

Plourde declined to comment when reached by email Thursday.

According to the police report, authorities believe the pink substance found near Pixie's cage might have been Benadryl, an allergy medication that can cause drowsiness and weakness. Protonix is used to treat acid reflux and heartburn, among other ailments.

AKC Grand Champion Program Adds Achievement Levels

Beginning May 11th, in conjunction with the implementation of the 2011-2012 point schedule, AKC Grand Champions will have the ability to earn Bronze, Silver, Gold, & Platinum designations.

A Bronze level Grand Championship will require 100 points, the Silver GCH will require 200 points, the Gold level will require 400 points, & the Platinum Grand Championship will require 800 Grand Champion points. The AKC website will be updated monthly with the names & breeds of all Bronze, Silver, Gold, & Platinum level dogs. Upon reaching each level, owners will receive a special recognition medallion & certificate.

The online GCH breed lists will also be expanded from the top 25 to the top 100 dogs. The new Top 100 All-Breed Grand Champions list can be found at www.akc.org/grandchampionship/

Grand Championship judging will remain the same. Once a dog completes the Grand Champion title, points will continue to accrue as it reaches each of the levels. If a dog has already accrued 100 or more Grand Championship points since the beginning of the program, the Bronze, Silver, Gold, & Platinum designation will be awarded retroactively.



Rochester Minnesota Kennel Club Meeting - April 11, 2011

The meeting was moved outside for a presentation and demonstration of carting by fellow members Don and Stephanie Vaughn with the assistance of their rescue St. Bernard, Gaag. Don spoke about differences in carts and harnesses, both in regards to personal preferences and breed specific needs. He also explained differences between "carting" and "pulling" competitions along with differences in training techniques for each of these events. With Don giving commands, Gaag demonstrated couple of exercises required for AKC titling in carting. The 360 degree turn with the cart being the pivot point was impressive as this exercise requires the dog to step only to the side without moving forward. Team Vaughn has been training for carting for about 6 months and has found this activity to blend in wonderfully with their love of hiking.

Gaag's (pronounced like dawg with a g) bio – believed to be 2-3 years was adopted in February 2010 through Midwest Animal Rescue and Services by way of the Red Lake Indian Reservation. Given an unfortunate incident with a porcupine which required surgical removal of quills from his neck and throat, the Ojibwe word for porcupine was the name given to this young St. Bernard. Important to note – there is nothing "prickly" about Gaag! He is a people pleaser and a very gentle soul. He will continue to hone his carting skills for possible competition in the future while also working towards attaining his therapy dog registration. Thank you to Don and Stephanie for providing this informational program.

General Meeting called to order at 7:32 pm

Members present: Carole Sorensen, Julie Prentice, Barb Hartman, Sandy Woodruff, Linda Cornick, Diane Whipple, Marie Christianson, Ron Elshaug, Renee McGovern, Don Vaughn, Stephanie Vaughn, Vicki O'Neill, Greg Goodnow

Guest present: Kristina Judisch

Approval of April meeting minutes – motion made by Diane Whipple and seconded by Marie Christianson

President's report – none

Secretary's report – Thank you letter from the International Red Cross noted and upcoming obedience seminar by Bridget Carlson at BOTC reported by Julie Prentice

Treasurer's report – read by Julie Prentice

Committee Reports

PR – none

Programs – Julie Prentice stated there were a couple of proposals – table until May

Agility Trial – everything on track

2011 All Breed Show and Obedience Trial – proofing premium and finalizing show assignments

ARF – none

Other – none

Old Business

Donation - \$200.00 - A vote was taken between the two timely nominated organizations (Can Do Canines and Winona County 4H Dog Project) by written ballot. The ballot count showed Winona County 4H Dog Project favored by an 8 to 6 vote.

K-9 Carnival – Carole Sorensen reported everything on track. She had a question from Rochester Feed and Pets wanting to bring available rescue dogs to their booth at the Carnival. After some discussion, it was felt to be a reasonable request to be supportive of those groups who work with rescue. The animals brought to the K-9 Carnival are the responsibility of Rochester Feed and Pets not RMKC.

By-Laws – Julie Prentice - Tabled to May meeting

Brochures in the Community – Julie Prentice - Tabled

Face Book – Amy Lawson - Tabled at this time

Special Awards – Renee McGovern, Carolyn Baihly, and Linda Cornick will present a draft at the May meeting

RMKC packets and new member information update – Barb Hartman - May meeting

Graham Park – After much discussion, there seemed to be many questions that have either not been addressed or answered at this time. It is time for a sit down with as many interested parties of the Graham Park Project to hear directly what is being planned and explain RMKC's concerns. Individuals from the County Commission Board (Judy Ohly), Friends of Graham Park, and the Fair Board are being invited to our meeting in May. We strongly encourage all RMKC members to attend on May 9th. Please be prompt as we plan to begin at 7 pm sharp! It is imperative that RMKC stand strong and united yet open and willing to get all the facts.

International Relief-Red Cross – thank you noted in Sec'y report

Thank you notes/cards – Julie Prentice reported that Diana Mann is working on these

Seminars – tabled until May meeting

Other old Business – none

New Business – Diane Whipple made a motion to accept the slate of Officers and Board Positions as presented and motion was seconded by Linda Cornick

Adjournment – Motion to adjourn made by Linda Cornick and seconded by Marie Christianson at 8:40 pm

Respectfully Submitted: Vicki O'Neill