



A.W.M.A. ONLINE MAGAZINE

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INTERVIEW WITH JERRY TARHEEL

Faith and fear are two words which can describe the feelings surrounding purchasing a new puppy. Faith that the puppy will turn into the champion that you are hoping for and fear that it won't. Emotions wrestle around in your mind as you worry about your new purchase and what the pup will be like a few years hence. Did you make the right choice? What do you do now? What well-meaning advice from others should you take and what should you discard? This article provides some words of assistance based on an interview with Jerry Bradshaw, owner of Tarheel Canine in Sanford, North Carolina. Through this facility, Jerry offers police, sport & pet obedience training, boarding & importing services as well as providing seminars and consultation on various training topics.

Pre-work. Doing work ahead of time is never fun. It can be dry and boring. But in the case of purchasing a new pup it can be critical. You want the best raw material so you can end up with the best dog possible once he's been trained. Make sure the lines you are selecting from are appropriate for your needs. Some lines are more prey driven, with little to no defense. Some lines are almost all prey-driven. Some lines are very reactive, and some are lacking in animation but very controllable. What kind of dog is best for you? Don't let the convenience of buying a pup from someone in your local club keep you from getting the right pup for you and your personal situation. Ask around and weigh all the opinions, but don't put too much weight on any one person's opinion. After all at the end of the day that's all it is. When you find a breeder & a breeding that you like, find out how the pups are managed from birth until when you take yours home. These first weeks are critical in terms of starting to develop the pup in a direction which will make it trainable and able to react properly to stressors. You want a breeder who will thoughtfully expose the litter

to visual and tactile stimuli, and handle the pups for short periods of times every day. Avoid a litter that is kept in a shed in the backyard for the entire time without exposure to these key elements. Yes, there are dogs that can take this kind of puppy hood and grow up to be a champion, but it is the rare exception. It is best to give your pup the best possible start by buying from a thoughtful breeder who has done her best to develop the pups to their full potential.

Select the right pup. Take someone along with you when you take your first look at the litter that has a decent level of experience in the sport you would like to pursue. That person should be more experienced than you and able to objectively help you select the right pup. You'll want to assess the pup's nerve & prey drive. Is the pup confident in various environments? Does it recover quickly from stressors? That is, when the pup is exposed to something that makes it a bit uncomfortable, is it able to overcome those fears quickly and investigate the novel stimuli, or it is too scared to do so. For dog sports, you'll want a pup who is always putting his mouth on things. Take a look at the grip. Yes, you can tell something about a pup's grip as an adult in its behaviors as a pup! No analysis can be relied upon completely, but there is a correlation between puppies who have a full bite on toys/rags and an adult who will have a full bite on the sleeve as an adult. You want a pup who takes the object all the way to the back of the mouth and hangs on. A pup who bites with only its incisors, or a pup who bites and then frequently repositions its grip could be a frustrating problem down the road. Don't take formal puppy testing (aka Volhard) too seriously; these simple observations can be sufficient to select the right pup. To a large extent, selecting a pup is a crap shoot anyway.

Continued on page 3

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

	Page
Interview with Jerry Tarheel	Cover Story
Feeding & Conditioning the Schutzhund Athlete	2
Upcoming: 2010 FMBB World Championships	6
Letter from the Editor	6
Letter from the President	4
Schutzhund USA Youth Scholarship Program	8
Looking for an AWMA Club?	10
Member Advertising	Back Cover
2009 Board of Directors & Committee Members	Back Cover
It's a Dog's Life	5
AWMA Shirts	Back Cover
If dogs edited the AWMA Newsletter	9
If I Didn't Have A Dog	9

FEEDING AND CONDITIONING THE SCHUTZHUND ATHLETE PART 2

In the previous article I discussed basic feeding concepts for the athletic schutzhund dog. In this article, I would like to address conditioning programs for the competitive dog and handler. Unfortunately, there is no one-size-fits-all program for every dog/handler team. A cookbook conditioning recipe of running for x minutes at y miles per hour followed by increased minutes and speed, followed by a rest and then repeating the whole process may not be effective, or even practical, for each team. But, by understanding conditioning fundamentals, you will be able to design a program that best suits your dog, your abilities, and your environment.

Nearly all dog sports, other than a select few (e.g. greyhound racing, lure coursing, earth dog trials, etc.), rely on direct, active human involvement during the event. Therefore, we must think of sport conditioning as a three-legged stool with the legs of the stool representing the dog's physical fitness, the dog's mental fitness, and the handler's overall fitness, respectively. If any of the legs comes up short, the stool will be unbalanced and the outcome of an event may be unsuccessful. Although we can always strive for a balanced stool, sometimes we have to accept slightly wobbly. Only the extraordinary dog or handler could possibly compensate for a severely unbalanced stool. Let's explore each of these three legs as they pertain to our schutzhund team.

Just as warm-up exercises don't consist of the dog barking in the back of the truck on the drive to the schutzhund field, neither does physically conditioning a dog consist of twice weekly blind searches and eight "bark and holds". The physical fitness of a dog is defined by: its ability to accomplish tasks specific to the sport, its level of muscle, tendon, and cardiovascular endurance, and its overall health. Schutzhund's three phases – tracking, obedience, and protection- demand highly specific tasks with minimal overlap between them.

Tracking is a deceptive phase. At first glance, it does not appear to be physically demanding. Certainly the dog must be able to walk a set distance and then lie down (in line with the direction of the track) at multiple articles. Or for those few handlers who like to buck tradition, the dog should be capable of picking up the article and retrieving it to hand. That sounds simple enough – even for a Chihuahua. The key, of course, is that the dog needs to accomplish these specific tasks while sniffing the ground. Throw in varied terrain, hills, water, ditches, and extreme weather conditions, and you will appreciate that the most important physical fitness attribute for a high scoring tracking dog is cardiovascular/respiratory endurance. Assuming the dog understands scent work, by increasing its cardiovascular/respiratory endurance via aerobic exercise, you will increase his fitness for the tracking phase. All levels of tracking can benefit from increased endurance, but it will be most noticeable at the FH and FH2 levels.

The obedience phase is an active phase. What with the dog heeling, sitting, downing, retrieving, jumping, and running, you can't help but think the dog must be physically fit to accomplish this phase with high scores. The mechanics of heeling, running, retrieving the dumbbell on the flat, over the one meter jump and over the wall primarily put a demand on the dog's musculoskeletal system. The dog must have the strength to lift its body over the jumps as well as the power to propel its body towards the jumps. It must be capable of holding the dumbbell firmly while

running, jumping and sitting. Although this phase is not a timed one, the dog must move with speed and directness to be the most correct. Cardiovascular endurance is still important, but the dog will fail this phase if it physically cannot perform the exercises. Conditioning muscle groups to resist fatigue via repetitive training of the specific tasks as well as cross-training (see below) will increase the dog's fitness for the obedience phase.

The last phase is protection. This phase is also determined by a dog's physical fitness for the specific tasks as well as its cardiovascular endurance. When we break down the actions performed during this phase, we have heeling, running (with and without turns), barking, leaping, and fighting. There are also static and controlled elements, followed by up to six explosive starts. The blind search, barking, and fighting all rely on cardiovascular endurance in order to score well. As the dog tires, speed, concentration, and effort is reduced. Protection work puts the most physiological stress on the dog's body because of the varying intensity of the work. It can also place an enormous amount of physical stress (sometimes resulting in injury) on the body because of the dog's direct interactions with the helper. Training specifically for the explosive starts in addition to endurance and task training will be helpful.

There are many opportunities to learn about specific task training (i.e. teaching the retrieve, teaching scent articles, etc.) as it pertains to the schutzhund sport. Ideas may be gleaned from club members, training directors, helpers, by attending seminars or from books and articles. Keep in mind that not all techniques work for all dogs and that some techniques that may appear to be too far "out there" may be just right for your dog. Also remember that the schutzhund sport does not have a monopoly on good training techniques. Over the last fifteen years there has been a veritable melting pot of training ideas such that I don't believe there is any new identifiable, or uniquely derived, technique or method that consistently works for all performance dogs. Which, in the long run, can only benefit our dogs; we now have the ability to choose from a variety of good ideas.

So what else can we do to make our dogs more physically fit other than training just the exercises required in the three phases? The following activities are not new. In fact, most people may already incorporate one or more of them in conditioning their dogs. All types of cross training can benefit your schutzhund dog, so don't feel compelled to do every cross training exercise. Use what you have in your backyard, environment or even garage to enhance your dog's exercise program. It is not necessary to drive two hours for your dog to run in the mountains or swim in the ocean for thirty minutes. There are probably more practical exercise enhancements closer to home. It is important that your dog is doing something other than heel-sit, heel-fast-sit, heel-turn-throw the tennis ball.

To increase cardiovascular and respiratory endurance the dog needs to work at least 3-4 times per week for greater than 30-45 minutes each session. The dog does not have to work at its maximum in order to strengthen its heart and increase respiratory endurance. But he does need to elevate his heart rate significantly. Strolling down a sidewalk or path, although fun, will not increase his endurance. Exercising longer than 30 minutes will shift the dog's metabolism to oxidatively burn fats.

Continued on page 7





INTERVIEW WITH JERRY TARHEEL

(CONT'D. FROM COVER)

The Clatter Stick. Once you've brought your puppy home, you can do a lot of development work before it is old enough to begin formal training. Done right, by the time formal training starts, your pup will have a wonderful base & will be fully ready to participate and excel. Once one of the first things you can do (and perhaps the breeder even started this for you) is expose your pup to the clatter stick.

The clatter stick will be used throughout your dog's training career and fear issues surrounding the clatter stick can be a career ending issue, not to mention an embarrassing and time wasting one. Exposure to the stick can begin very early. Many breeders will do this even before the pups are sent to their new homes. Pups have very basic drives and their food drive is most primary in the early weeks and months of their lives. Eating is also very pleasurable for pups. Take advantage of these feelings by tying the clatter stick in with their desire for food. While feeding the pup, whether in his regular bowl or from your fingers, gently swoosh the clatter stick around, making contact with the floor or your forearm. Always being conscious of the pup's reaction and being careful not to overly stress the pup as you could inadvertently cause a negative association with the pup and create a fear of the stick. Easy does it. You have a long time to train the pup and there's no need to rush things. Pushing toward a goal too quickly can prevent you from ever reaching it.

Problem solving. Pups are growing neural pathways like crazy & this is your chance to influence how they get laid down. Why not expose your pup to fun problem solving activities to help his developing brain. This is an important part of your development activities. You can play hide & seek with your pup. How do you do this? Have someone hold your pup while you hide behind a wall or tree just a few feet away. Increase the distance the older your pup gets and as he gets to understand the game. Call to your pup only enough that it knows you are no longer there and to entice him to find you. Take a toy and throw it into a pile of boxes and have the pup figure out how to find it among the chaos. Make him work his way through & over barriers to get to you as you call him enthusiastically. Always make sure these learning situations are age appropriate and set your pup up to try hard, but to succeed.

Play fun rag games. These are great to do with other pups to build excitement & feelings of competition & is an excellent time to introduce the clatter stick during the chaos and excitement of the game when the pups are less likely to notice.

Socialization. The number one priority is the socialization of the new pup once you've brought it home, according to Jerry. This is in conflict with what some trainers believe. Some trainers believe that no one should be allowed to touch the dog but you, the handler, and that any affection given or received by the dog by someone other than his handler may detract from his relationship with his owner and his ability live up to his potential as a sport dog. Jerry does not believe this, and in fact believes in doing everything you can to socialize that new dog. He believes that if a dog genetically has what it takes to become a great dog, then socializing it will only enhance this. Further, a lack of socialization to

people may detract from the dog's ultimate capabilities. This is because if the dog isn't allowed to become familiar with all different kinds of people it could develop fear issues that will come out when you least want them to, for instance on the field when you have a decoy unlike anything you've exposed the dog to previously. This could include a particularly large decoy when you usually work with someone smaller, someone from another ethnic group, or someone with different mannerisms. Puppyhood socialization should expose your pup to many different kinds of people, and create a pleasant association to allow the dog to grow into full confidence as an adult.

Teaching the Out. Trainers vary tremendously on whether or not a dog should be taught the out as a young dog. Jerry believes that this ought to be an individual decision that takes into account the dog's lines & temperament. Some pups are from such tough, independent lines that an early out must be taught in order to ever have the proper amount of control over the dog's outs as an adult. On the other hand, some pups are more polite, and if you start the out too early, the dog could develop an apprehension regarding ever really getting into it with the decoy. Some people like to start the dog with motivational outs by offering the dog another toy in exchange for the one he's in possession of, and this is a fine way to start. But Jerry cautions that once a decoy is involved, getting to dog to respond to an out command can be a whole different ball game.

Defense. Should you start trying to develop your dog's defensive drive prior to six months? Again, it depends on the dog and highlights the necessity of working with a good decoy. Too much defense work too young can ruin a dog if he's not ready for it. Always end your training sessions positively, and if you can see the dog reacting negatively to pressure to go into defense (displacement behaviors such as jumping on the handler, tongue flicks, or sniffing the ground, or escape behaviors such as trying to get away from the decoy) the decoy should immediately switch tactics to encourage prey driven behavior to avoid traumatizing the pup. These behaviors include things such as moving from side to side, a lot of movement, using the clatter stick the dog has become accustomed to, having the decoy act as though the pup is intimidating him, with no aggressive staring or body language from the decoy. Jerry believes that most dogs are heavier in prey drive than defense drive at first, and you should work in their strongest drive until they're ready for more. Some decoys never work the dog's defense drive. It's up to you as a handler to decide if you want to work with a decoy like this, recognizing that if your dog is capable of working in defense and you don't develop this drive, your dog could be at a strong disadvantage at a trial if the decoy employs this technique.

Enjoy Your Dog. These first months are your opportunity to expose your dog to everything. Have fun with it, enjoy it, but take it seriously, too. Each game, each walk is an opportunity to show or teach the pup something new. Keep it positive. The pup will show you what it's capable of and don't try to push it too far too fast. Have a game plan, and know where you're headed, or you just might end up somewhere else.

Jerry Tarheel
www.tarheelcanine.com.

FROM THE PRESIDENT, ANNE CAMPER

The AWMA has been busy over the summer and fall. Although we weren't successful in producing quarterly newsletter, I hope this one will bring you up to date.

There has been a major development in AWDF of importance to our organization. AWDF made an effort to have a unified scorebook that is issued by all AWDF member clubs and is required to enter the AWDF championship. All AWMA scorebooks meet this requirement. This spring the AWDF board voted unanimously to give each breed club the right to issue these scorebooks to their breed. In other words, to have Malinois listed in the scorebook, the book could not be issued by another breed club. Exceptions were made for the sport clubs (US Mondioring, DVG) because they allow all breeds to participate. Shortly thereafter, USCA made the decision to issue scorebooks listing the breed to dogs other than German Shepherds, but these scorebooks can be used only at USCA trials. Our organization was opposed to this action because it undercut the intent of the unified AWDF scorebook and the right and responsibility for each breed club to control scorebooks for their breed. Our objections were not considered, and USCA is now issuing the "USCA only" scorebook. This designation is supposed to be clearly designated on the scorebook, and as per USCA's notation, no other AWDF clubs should recognize these books at their trials. The books are similar to the old USCA scorebooks. Keep in mind that if a dog entering your trials has a USCA scorebook that was issued prior to July 15, 2009, that book is valid and should be honored at all events except the AWDF championship.

Another change is that USCA has doubled their scorebook stamping fees. If you have an AWMA scorebook, it must be sent to the USCA office for stamping before you enter a USCA trial. USCA is the only AWDF club that requires stamping.

When the AWDF had the vote to grant autonomy of breed designation to the individual breed clubs, our board began discussions on how we wished to list a dog in our scorebooks as a Belgian Malinois. There were debates on whether or not this should extend beyond FCI registered dogs. An initial vote was taken by the board to set criteria for breed designation in the book that included a mechanism for dogs that were not FCI registered. A committee was established (Donna McGuinness, Mike Baker, Bob Miller, Terry Miller) to develop procedures and designations for scorebook listing of FCI and non-FCI registered dogs. The outcome was an indefinite listing privilege-like process. The process and forms were presented to the board for a vote and the motion recently passed. This mechanism recognizes that many of our Malinois are not FCI registered but are still worthy of being listed as a Malinois. Implementation will take place in the near future and will be available to those purchasing new scorebooks and also to those who wish to modify books for eligible dogs that were previously listed as a mix. We hope that this will open the door to more Malinois owners and interest them in our organization and the sport. Keep in mind that many events are limited to FCI registered dogs, and this process will not supplant that requirement.

As another benefit to members, the board has voted to establish an IPO 3 club. The application process and qualifications are under development and will be listed on the website. I hope that all of you who have achieved this goal with your Malinois will take advantage of this honor.

I also have some late-breaking news about our relationship with our sister breed organization, the American Belgian Malinois Club. As of about four years ago, the ABMC didn't know that we existed. Recognizing that both of our organizations could benefit from closer ties, efforts were made on both sides to determine if there were appropriate links that could be made. One outcome was the ability to send an agility team to the FMBB. The second is in the area of IPO. As you may know, AKC's Working Dog Program was established approximately three years ago. ABMC took a vote of their membership and decided that they wished to pursue the ability to offer WDS trials. During this time, the AWMA and ABMC maintained our connections, but because we are a member of AWDF, we could not endorse participation in the WDS program. It recently became apparent that the WDS program was not succeeding, which led to AKC considering whether to abandon the program. While this was transpiring, I was contacted by the ABMC's president, Suzanne Belger, about whether we would consider partnering with them if the WDS program was dissolved. The board decided that it was in our best interest and that of the breed if the two organizations could work together more closely. Prior to AKC voting on the disposition of the WDS program, three breed clubs submitted agreements to partner with a working arm, including the ABMC-AWMA. Just recently, the AKC voted to dissolve the WDS program at the end of the year. Our partnership with ABMC would allow us to verify that a Belgian Malinois has attained an IPO title so the title can appear on the AKC pedigree. ABMC will not be offering titles or trials; these will be provided through our organization and affiliation with AWDF. AKC's decision is very recent and therefore many details remain to be determined at levels ranging from the AWMA and ABMC to AWDF and AKC. As discussions develop, the board will address

all the issues. I hope you will agree with us that this partnership is sensible and logical. It also illustrates what can happen if two organizations approach a partnership openly and with the best interests of both groups in mind.

Membership on the board has changed recently with the election of new regional directors. Our Northern Director is Jim Downey (replaces Pat Carpenter), the Southern Director is Paul Konschak



Anne with
'Bekqa' d'Ile
du Chien, IPO 3.



Anne with Bazouka ("Zouka")
van de Trinekesdreef, IPO 3

Continued on page 6



It's A Dog's Life



In May of 1996, my life changed forever. A short, dark, handsome, and very, very hairy male entered my life. I fell in love. His name, Casino Chip. Casino is a German Shepherd Dog. Yes, you heard me—a dog. I bought him at a pet store when he was 5 weeks old, took him to puppy-kindergarten a few months later, and after being involved with training, learning, and basically enjoying what is commonly referred to as 'dog-sport' with fellow canine enthusiasts, I was hooked. Casino and I spent every waking moment together for over seven years until he was retired to the care of grand-ma [my mom!]. They live happily together—both now over 70 years of age—Ha! Ha!

My initial experience with dog-sport was flyball and agility. Flyball races match two teams of four dogs each, racing side-by-side over a 51 foot long course. Each dog must run in relay fashion down the jumps, trigger a flyball box, releasing a tennis ball, retrieve the ball, and return over the jumps. The next dog is released to run the course but can't cross the start/finish line until the previous dog has returned over all 4 jumps and reached the start/finish line. The first team to have all four dogs finish the course without error wins the heat. Basically this relay lasts about 16 seconds. 16 seconds! You drive from one to eight hours, check into a hotel, spend two days competing for a total of maybe 6 minutes. Yes, I'm serious.

Agility is a competitive sport that tests a person's skills in training and handling their dog over a timed obstacle course. Competitors race against the clock as they direct their dogs to jump hurdles, scale ramps, burst through tunnels, traverse a see-saw and weave through a line of poles in an obstacle course configuration designed to challenge a handler's competitive and training skills. Scoring is based on faults similar to equestrian show jumping and is just as exciting to compete in as it is to be a spectator. You can go to an agility trial every Saturday and Sunday for your dog's entire life and never, let me repeat NEVER, run the same course twice. You don't know what a course has in store for you until you arrive. You have mere seconds to tell the dog what to do while you don't fall flat on your face. I've driven up to 14 hours in one direction for an agility trial in which my time on the course over three days totaled about 2.916 minutes. Most recently, I've completely lost my mind and been fortunate enough to travel to Slovenia in 2008 and the Czech Republic this past May to compete at the World Agility Championships for the Belgian Shepherd Dog with my current "doggie star" Tisa du Banc des

Hermelles, a Belgian Malinois. These trips cost a bit more and still yield less than 5 minutes of "doggie-star" time. Yes, it's a bit of an ego trip but Tisa and I are definitely worth it!

Obsessed? Deranged? Chemically imbalanced? Yep...and absolutely positively loving every single solitary millisecond of it!

As you can imagine this takes up a huge amount of time for training, seminars, practice, travel time, etc., etc., etc. So how do you have a social life? It's a bit like being obsessed with golf. How many times have you wished your spouse understood how important it is to get up before God, drive two hours, give someone \$150+ to hit a little white ball into the forest, then the pond, and lastly the sand dunes before retiring to the 19th hole to pray to the golf Gods that your score isn't three digits? You need to find a spouse that understands you, your need for competition, your need for...let's face it—you just have to do it!

What better partner than someone who is just as obsessed, deranged, and chemically imbalanced as you are! I found me one! About six years ago, I hired my now husband Philip to teach tracking classes for the German Shepherd Dog Training Club of Chicago where I was the President. Philip has been involved in dog-sport for over 20 years. His sports differ a bit from mine. His are more tailored to let's just say the testosterone level of dog-sport—Schutzhund and French/Belgian RingSport. Schutzhund is a German word meaning "protection dog" and refers to a sport that focuses on the development and evaluation of dogs for breeding, training, and continuing improvement of the breed. Schutzhund work concentrates on three parts: tracking, obedience, and protection work. These three phases are similar to those for dogs in police and military work. The sport was developed to demonstrate the dog's intelligence and utility. Schutzhund measures a dog's mental stability, endurance, structural efficiencies, ability to scent, willingness to work, courage, and trainability. French RingSport and Belgian RingSport resemble Schutzhund with slight differences in exercises, whose heritages evolved from France and Belgium for the training and evaluation of each country's respective police, military, and sport dogs.

The testosterone level comes into play when we dress a guy up [the helper or decoy] in a padded suit or a padded sleeve so we can send our dogs to well, uhm, uhm, hmmm...bite him. It's common for the helper to protect his manhood from injury since that is at eye level for dogs and a definite part that would cause the helper to fall to the ground for 'full-points' in a trial!!!

In 2006 Phil and I purchased Oak Spring Kennels, a canine training facility and boarding kennel. Our home is nestled on a gorgeous rolling 40-acre property. Complete with a lake for the dogs to swim, hundreds of oak trees, training buildings, fenced training areas, and a pristine competition field. The kennel building has fourteen indoor/outdoor kennel boarding runs, and living quarters for hired kennel help or event judges/trainers.

We also breed and import Belgian Malinois pedigreed from Germany, Belgium, France, and

the Czech Republic. Our kennel name is von der Eichenquelle which means 'Of the Oak Spring' hence the boarding kennel name. Currently, I'm working Amara von der Eichenquelle who is 2 ½ years old in Schutzhund and agility, my international competition dog Tisa du Banc des Hermelles in agility, and two of her offspring that are now nine months old; the female F'n Effen von der Eichenquelle will be my next agility dog and F'n George Clooney "Casey", my baby boy, will be trained in Schutzhund. Together my husband and I have about a dozen that we either compete with or are training as working prospects to be sold to sport homes or police/military work.

Dog-sport offers dog lovers the opportunity to train their dogs and compete with other dog/handler teams for recognition of both the handler's ability to train and the dog's ability to perform. Dog-sport is enjoyed by persons of varied professions, races, and religions. Everyone joins together in a camaraderie born of their common interest in working with their dogs. Persons of all ages and conditions of life, even those with significant disabilities such as M.S. and Parkinson's, enjoy dog-sport either individually or as a family sport.

If you'd like to see pictures of our dogs and the property, please visit our website at www.MalinoisDogs.com. To find out more information about how this might be an interest for you or your kids, visit www.AKC.org, www.USDAA.org, or www.GermanShepherdDog.com. Also, please feel free to email me and I can point you in the right direction.

Thank you for letting me share my loves with you. Oh, and by the way I do have a job to support all of this. If you should have a need for equipment lease portfolio management, back-up servicing, sales/use tax filings, personal property tax compliance, accounting, tax, or audit services, please, please, please call me! I need the work to pay for this addiction.

Dogspeed.

Shari L. Lipski, CLP is Principal of ECS Financial Services, Inc. a forty-year old accounting and CPA firm specializing in servicing the leasing, financial, and banking community. Shari has been in the leasing industry since 1989 and is currently serving on the Sponsorship Committee for the National Equipment Finance Association and on the Service Provider's Business Council for the Equipment Lease & Finance Association.



FROM THE PRESIDENT, ANNE CAMPER (CONT'D)

(replaces Mike Morgan), and the Western Director is Les Flores (re-elected). Pat, Mike and Les were the first set of regional directors for the organization and I appreciate the time and effort they have given. The regional directors are your representatives, so please do contact them with any questions or concerns about AWMA activities in your region. They are also there to present your views to the board, as are any of us who serve the organization.

In the very near future, we'll be gathering in Florida for our National Championship and annual meeting. I hope to see many of you there whether you are competing or participating as a spectator. As always, it promises to be a great event with impressive performances.

The AWMA is in need of volunteers to serve on national committees. Committee selections typically take place at the national meeting, so if you are willing to put your name in the hat to be considered for a committee, please contact me or Christopher Smith in the near future. There are many tasks that need to be done. If you wish to become more involved in the organization, we would welcome your help.

In closing, I would like to thank Desiree' Shaw for her contributions as newsletter editor. She has resigned her position as of this edition because increased other obligations in her life. She's done a great job for us.

Anne

2010 FMBB World Championships



FMBB WM 2010
GERMANY - COTTBUS

19/5/10 - 23/5/10

Stadium of Friendship
Fairground Cottbus

Mondioring | Obedience
IPO | Agility | Exposition



Don't forget, forms are due **February 1st**, to declare for a position on the **AWMA IPO, Mondio, or Agility** Teams that will be competing at the 16th Annual FMBB World Championships.

The event will be held in Cottbus, Germany, on May 19th through the 23rd. For more information about the 2010 World Championships and to follow along with the teams and results, please visit the 2010 FMBB World Championship website at www.FMBB2010.net.

Handlers wishing to declare for a position can find the selection criteria and forms on the AWMA's website under upcoming events at www.WorkingMalinois.com.

Not competing but you'd like to see the event? Great! Join the 2010 teams and experience the event first-hand. For more information about traveling to the event and reservations, please contact Shari Lipski, WC Committee Chairperson, at shari@malinoisdogs.com.



FROM THE EDITOR

Hello all! Here we are again, entering the time of year for perfect dog training weather. Good luck to all of you getting ready for the AWMA Nationals this year. It is being held in Plant City, Florida. Whether you have a dog to trial or not it is always a great time. I look forward to seeing everyone!

I have recently relocated to North Carolina. During my apartment hunting I have discovered that German Shepherds are on most apartment complex's "restricted breed" lists. When did this happen?! My fear is that Malinois will not be far behind. Thank goodness most people don't know what they are....yet.

I have had a great time putting the newsletter together. I love seeing pictures of everyone's Malinois and getting input from clubs across the U.S. Unfortunately, I no longer have the time to dedicate to AWMA. I will still be helping and contributing silly Malinois pictures of my own though! And as always, I still encourage everyone to become a part of the newsletter, it is made for you after all!

Happy Training!

Desiree' Shaw



And we all know fat burning yields more energy than carbohydrate metabolism. This is good, because a trained, fit dog can shift into fat metabolism more quickly than an unfit dog and, therefore, can take advantage of the additional energy available (metabolically speaking) during a schutzhund performance.

Most endurance exercises involve some type of running or swimming. Free running, which also includes ball chasing, off leash hiking, sled pulling, skijoring, or riding with a 4-wheeler or bicycle, will increase the heart rate. Some activities are easier on the handler than others. Controlled jogging via a treadmill can be monitored with the handler kicked back in a lawn chair sipping his or her favorite beverage. With others, the handler may actually have to sweat. Ball chasing is harder to maintain for longer time periods. But that doesn't mean a dog couldn't hike and chase balls at the same time. I do not advocate free running a dog alongside or behind a car or truck. Dogs can be run over and a leashed dog running behind a truck, while the handler sits on the tailgate, inhales a lot of fumes. That will certainly decrease the dog's blood hemoglobin-oxygen binding capacity! Swimming is an excellent endurance builder. Some dogs love it and some don't. It is vital that swimming is initially done for a short duration (5-10 minutes). Most dogs can't maintain an extended amount of swimming without intermittently resting on shore.

Agility training is another way to increase fitness and flexibility in your schutzhund dog. It is not necessary to join an agility club or to even trial your dog. It is worthwhile to investigate jumping theory in order to maximize your success during your training sessions. The many articles and books by Dr. Chris Zink, DVM can get you started in the right direction. Jumps, tunnels, tables, and weave poles can be improvised at home or at the training field. It doesn't have to be elaborate and a full agility training course is not needed. If done correctly, agility will increase your dog's awareness of his own body, teach him to collect his body to jump properly, and teach him to gauge the apex of the jump. These abilities will increase the dog's success in obedience and protection.

How many times have you seen a schutzhund dog tick the meter wall or crash half-way up the A-frame? How many times has a schutzhund dog been found wandering behind the jumps only to end up holding the dumbbell staring at the jump from two feet away with a "How am I going to do this?" look on his face? Agility training will help this. It can also be used to boost the dog's running speed and its response to verbal commands. It can even be used as another motivator/reward for obedience training. Agility training is similar in physiological intensity as protection work. Sessions can be designed so the dog is working at high speeds with quick/explosive starts interspersed with slower obstacles or very short rests. Both the triple bar jump and the broad jump will encourage the dog to jump with more power and lift, and to gauge the apex of the jump. Being creative and training with intensity will build "task commitment" (i.e. the dog committing to doing the exercise, in drive, as soon as the command is given). Task commitment is an indicator of the dog's focus and increases the overall impression of the exercise.

Strength training is often overlooked when conditioning a dog. Obviously they can't pump iron. But they can pull. A proper fitting harness can be obtained from a variety of sled dog equipment manufacturers. Attach a rope from the harness to a child's plastic sled, fill the sled with bags of dog food, and you're ready. No snow needed. A grassy lawn is just fine. Start with light weights and work up. You don't have to develop the dog into a weight pulling champion, but you do need to use enough weights and/or encourage greater speed to make the dog actually work. In general, a dog's back muscles will fatigue prior to his leg muscles. Incorporating hill work into the routine, while pulling or when free running, will strengthen the back muscles, shoulders, and rear legs, but also tends to shorten the stride. High speed running on a level surface will lengthen the stride. As in people, strength conditioning in conjunction with aerobic conditioning will lead to a fitter dog.

The last aspect of physical fitness as it relates to a sporting dog is its general health. A sick or injured dog will not perform to its potential. The veterinarian should be one of your schutzhund dog's best friends. I say this not because I am a veterinarian; but, because it is necessary to build a good working relationship between the owner and vet and a trusting relationship between the dog and vet. Let's face it, not all working dogs are accepting of other people touching, handling, prodding or manipulating them, even with (or especially with!) the owner present. The occasional weight check, petting, and biscuit munching appointment at the veterinary clinic will not result in lowered protection scores! And believe me, the vet and the technicians will love your dog more.

Your veterinarian can be a source of information on many aspects of dog health. Yearly visits are a must, twice yearly – ideal. Vaccinations should be based on the individual dog, state laws, and the part of the country in which the dog lives and trials. There may be different disease threats depending on where you may travel for competition. Unfortunately, vaccinations are not available for all of these threats. Be prepared prior to your departure about the potential diseases or parasites at your destination and take precautions as needed. Blood work (complete blood count and chemistry panel) should be performed every two years when a dog is young and every year after age eight. This may help the veterinarian detect problems, or at least spot trends, before a disease becomes too advanced to treat successfully. Heartworm tests should be done every year in endemic areas. I have found that healthy dogs fed raw diets tend to have high-normal or above normal levels of phosphorus in their blood. Prior knowledge of this could prevent a misdiagnosis should the dog become sick for other reasons.

A working dog should undergo a musculoskeletal exam every year which includes range of motion and palpation of muscles for symmetry. Acute or chronic injuries can either be career ending or manageable. A proper diagnosis is essential for proper treatment. Small changes in muscles, tendons, joints, and bones can lead to big changes in performance. A dog that hurts (even if it is not obvious) will not use its body properly. But, you may whine, my veterinarian knows nothing about schutzhund or sport dog injuries. And besides, he (she) is afraid of Malinois, German shepherds, Rottweiler's, etc. Remember, you are both on the same team. Therefore, it is your responsibility to help your vet understand the demands that are placed on the dog during training and competition.

Continued on page 10





Schutzhund USA Youth Scholarship Program

At some point, in the distant future, the youth of today will take over the reins. They will be vital to the success of the sport of schutzhund in America. We, as the present enthusiasts of the sport, will need all the energy, brains, imagination and talent that young people can bring to the sport of schutzhund.

Scholarship Applications are due May 31, 2009

Acquire Applications at www.schutzhundyouth.com

The Schutzhund USA Youth Scholarship Program is dedicated to promoting the sport of schutzhund to America's youth. We provide seminars, competitions, financial assistance and academic opportunities to all youth. We are fully funded through sponsorships and donations. Please join in today and make your donation to the Schutzhund USA Youth Scholarship Program. Support the future.

The Schutzhund USA Youth Scholarship Program is a Certified 501(C)(3) Organization. All donations to the Schutzhund USA Youth Scholarship Program are tax deductible.

Make a Donation Today!

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I would like to make a donation in the amount of \$ _____ to the Schutzhund USA Youth Scholarship Fund.

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Phone/Fax: 330-336-6560

www.schutzhundyouth.com

Photos by Charlie Snyder and Molly Graf, Ad and Logo by Tina Wagner

If dogs edited the AWMA Newsletter...

If our Malinois edited the AWMA Newsletter there would be some interesting articles.

First of all, it would have a name with attitude!

Potential titles would be
somewhere along the lines of:

"Malinois Kick Butt"

"Malinois Madness"

Some potential article titles
may possibly include:

"How to escape an "escape-proof" kennel."

"How to run the batteries out of a bark collar in the first five minutes."

"Does your poo stink? Check out page 45 for comparisons on what it 'normal'."

"Tommy Hole-Digger Cologne and CK-9 Cologne combine for the ultimate aroma. Free sample inside."

"Lassie or Cujo?"

Take a quick quiz to see what famous dog you resemble."

"101 exercises to improve your figure before trial time. Includes the famous couch-to-ceiling maneuver"



If I Didn't Have a Dog

I could walk around the yard barefoot in safety.

My house could be carpeted

instead of tiled and laminated.

All flat surfaces, clothing, furniture, and cars

would be free of hair.

When the doorbell rings, it wouldn't sound like a kennel.

When the doorbell rings, I could get to the door without

wading through fuzzy bodies who beat me there.

I could sit on the couch and my bed the way I wanted,

without taking into consideration how much space several

fur bodies would need to get comfortable.

I would have money

....and no guilt to go on a real vacation.

I would not be on a first-name basis with 6 veterinarians,

as I put their yet unborn grand kids through college.

The most used words in my vocabulary would not be: out,

sit, down, come, no, stay, and leave him/her/it ALONE.

My house would not be cordoned off into zones with baby

gates or barriers.

My house would not look like a day care center,

toys everywhere.

My pockets would not contain things like poop bags,

treats and an extra leash.

I would no longer have to spell the words

B-A-L-L F-R-I-S-B-E- E W-A-L-K

T-R-E-A-T B-I-K-E G-O R-I-D-E

I would not have as many leaves

INSIDE my house as outside.

I would not look strangely at people who think having

ONE dog/cat ties them down too much.

I'd look forward to spring and the rainy season

instead of dreading "mud" season.

How EMPTY my life would be!

If they know your dog leaps off the wall like a maniac, they may investigate that sore shoulder a little more in depth. And, by all means, if your dog does not respect your position of alpha at all times, then put a muzzle on him (or her) when at the veterinary clinic. Remember the biscuit munching appointments.

The second leg of the “conditioning stool” represents the dog’s mental fitness. This fitness may be high for one phase but not another. We all know the dog that will not work for one owner, but works beautifully for the new owner. An individual dog’s willingness to work is dependent on many variables ranging from love to fear. Some will work for (and with) their owners and others will work only for themselves. Hopefully, long gone are the days when we saw dogs tracking with their bellies mere inches off the ground. There are differing opinions on how to increase the dog’s willingness to work. In the house or in the kennel? Crated or not? Force or inducement? Likely, for most of us, it is a combination of all of the above. Overall mental fitness can be molded for specific tasks, but the hereditary aspect of mental fitness is a strong underlying component that may exhibit itself during times of stress while training or trialing.

Mental stress can lead to physical stress in the dog. A stressed dog will likely not score well in a trial. It is not uncommon to have stress diarrhea in competition dogs. Traveling, water, new schedules, and excitement all contribute to this. A handler needs to be aware of what outside influences can unbalance the dog’s mental fitness and work to alleviate them. If needed, work with your veterinarian if prescription or non-prescription options are warranted. Don’t underestimate the value of playing with or massaging your dog to alleviate stress. Develop stress reducing routines that you can fall back on during a trial. Dogs love routines. Unfortunately, not all dogs are capable of withstanding the stress of training or trialing at an advanced level. For those, it would be in everyone’s best interest to either place the dog, reduce the training/trialing level, or even try another sport for that dog. High scores in schutzhund aren’t worth the dog’s mental stress.

So what about that last leg of the conditioning stool? Handler fitness. We humans come in all shapes and sizes. And we all join schutzhund clubs. In general, the more fit amongst us will probably train more and will likely score higher with their dogs in trials – everything else being equal. Of course there are exceptions. But why be the weak link in your team? For the human part of the team, cardiovascular/respiratory endurance is vital. If you can train with enthusiasm, without sucking wind, your dog will be more focused. And at the top competition levels, obedience scores are often the determinant of who goes home with the medals. The more you relax and slow down on the obedience field, the more likely your dog will, too. So do your part. Condition your schutzhund dog and yourself so your team will achieve the highest levels.

By Susan M. Geske PhD, DVM

AWMA Regions and Member Clubs

Western Region Local Clubs

Regional Director: [Les Flores](#)

Arizona

Southern Arizona Malinois Association
Contact: JJ Belcher jj-belcher@comcast.net
520-975-0878

California

Sacramento Valley Working Dog Club
Contact: Kelley Graham
sacvalleywdc@surewest.net
916-203-5924

Montana

Yellowstone River Dog Club
Contact: Bruce Westerhoff
brwesterhoff@netzero.net
406-967-2456

New Mexico

High Mesa Malinois
www.highmesadogs.org
Contact: Terry Miller
sundogs@cybermesa.com
505-672-9061

Washington

Cascade Belgian Shepherd Working Dog Club
www.dogequipment.com/csc
Contact: Les Flores
csc@dogequipment.com
360-539-5320

Northern Region Local Clubs

Regional Director: [Pat Carpenter](#)

Kentucky

TCT Working Dog Association
Contact: Cynthia Zimmermann
TD cynthia@workingdogworld.com
Gerry Zimmermann, President
gerry@okwhatever.com
270-622-4144

Michigan

Motor City Working Dogs
Contact: John Wiitanen mohawk-john19@charter.net
248-425-2515

Illinois

MidwestWorkingDogAssociation
Contact: Waine Singleton
waine@sweetcornkennels.com
708-257-9246

Southern Region Local Clubs

Regional Director: [Mike Morgan](#)

Florida

Spirit Working Dog Club
Contact: Ivan Balabanov ivanb19@msn.com
813-707-1293

The Florida Working Dog Club

Contact: Michael Rivers
michaeltrivers2003@windstrem.net
386-454-5160

Georgia

Atlanta Working Dog Club
Contact: Joey Leigh maitai1rott@hotmail.com
770-579-2064
Mike Morgan malimike52@earthlink.net
770-879-1368

West Virginia

Podium Belgian Shepherd Working Dog Club
www.pbswdc.com
Contact: Sabine Ernsting
info@vomrotensturm.com
571-643-1213



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Don't forget if you have any articles, ideas, pictures, etc. that you'd like to submit for publication in the newsletter, please send them to Shari Lipski at shari@malinoisdogs.com.

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Are you an AWMA Member who has a dog related business?

Do you have a litter of Malinois you would like to advertise?

Take advantage of your membership and advertise for free in the AWMA Online Magazine!

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The AWMA T-shirts are in and they are NICE!

The shirts are high quality, heavy cotton with the AWMA logo design embroidered on the left chest.



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