

Paw Prints

The Newsletter of the Rand Park Dog Training Club, Inc.



May 2024

Class info and registration form... [Rand Park Dog Training](#)

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Important dates:

July 14 Fit Dog Walk - Mark your calendars!

PawPrints July issue:

Please email rpdtc.pawprints@gmail.com to contribute.

Brag, news, and recipes - Always want to hear from fellow members.

Outdoor walk roundup - We'd love to hear about your dog's favorite places to walk to discover new smells. It will be a great summer for humans, canines, and cicadas!

"May we be as good, as noble, and as deserving as our dogs think we are."

BRAGS!!!!

Congratulations, Team Noah! Noah is jumping for joy after earning 2nd and 4th place today and four more OTCH points. He is handled by Birgit Mantilla. OTCH—Obedience Trial Champion—is awarded by the AKC to a dog who has accumulated 100 points in Open B or Utility competition and precedes a dog's name.



Awards Banquet and Member Appreciation Night



The Summer Olympics came early this year—to Rand Park Dog Training Club! We opened the Member Appreciation Night with agility-style activities that tested balance, grace, and strength. The dogs did great!





The 2024 Board of Directors was sworn in. Left to right:
Vickie Henderson, Maria Divane, Lisa Merlin, Paul Straka, Birgit Mantilla (holding Noah), Paul Doerpinghaus, Candido Martinez, Jackie Montero, Kathy Baureis, Martha Nelson, Jill Spooner.
Sworn in by Gloria Urquart, right.

And, of course, there was food and treats for both humans and dogs.

Thanks to the Awards Committee: Annice Coughlin, Kathy Baureis, and everyone else who contributed to the decorations and food.





Appreciation



The Club thanks outgoing Board members Barb Pische (top) and Lois Ledahl-Marsh (below) for their service.

Barb instructs Obedience on Tuesday nights, as well as coordinates the nursing home therapy dog visits.



Lois teaches tracking on Sundays in the Lincolnshire area. Her dog Freya, a Berenese Mountain Dog, was awarded the Club's Open Dog of the Year.



Awards



Kathy Laspina 10 year member!

Vickie Henderson and her dog My Roxie Hart did CGC Advanced, AKC Coursing ability test, Fit Dog Bronze, and Trick Dog Novice.



Barbara Toney and her Golden Retriever Maestro earned their Beginner Novice award. (Kathy Baureis on the right.)

Maestro charms hospital patients and nursing home residents during therapy dog visits. His “big trick” is holding a conductor’s baton in his mouth and marking time to “Row, row, row your boat.”

Clyde Werner received his 25-year award. Clyde and his dogs in Rally with Lois!



Birgit and Rex-Novice Dog of the Year
Sexy Rexy is the little guy looking lovingly at Birgit!

Kathy Baureis received awards for NACSW ORT: Odor Recognition Test, Nosework level 1, with Kobi, NACSW NW3: Nosework Level 2 with Creed and Mila, Nosework level 3 with Creed and Mila, Nosework Level 3 Container, Nosework Level 3 Container, Nosework Level # Exterior, Level 3 Vehicle with Mila, Nosework Elite, Elite 1 with Mila and Nosework Elite with Creed. Hope I got it all...



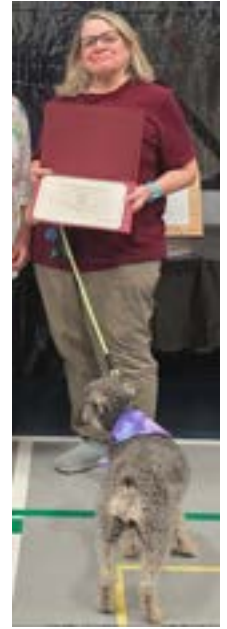
Birgit and Noah UD: AKC Utility Dog of the Year

Jackie Montero (left), Birgit Mantilla (Center), Kathy Baureis (right), and the handsome one...NOAH (front).



(left) Nosework Level 2, Scentwork Elite Container and Scentwork Elite Container **Marge Kabala** and Brooke.

(right) Jill Spooner and Lacey earned their AKC BCAT, NADD DM Dock Diving Master and NADD DE Dock Diving Elite



Not Pictured is **Patti Stitz** and Barnie...Scentwork Superior Container, Scentwork Superior Exterior, Scentwork Superior Interior



Lois Ledahl-Marsh and Freya with their Open Dog of the Year award.

Team Member of the Year! Martha Nelson

Left to right: Jackie
Montero, Director of
Training; Martha Nelson,
Club Secretary; Birgit
Mantilla, Club President;
Kathy Baureis; Club Vice
President.



AKC Rally Intermediate National Placement

Birgit and Noah, 3rd place overall, in
Wilmington, Ohio. They competed
against 100 of the nation's best with a
score of 299 out of 300.



From our Professional Groomer

SHOULD YOU BRUSH YOUR DOG'S TEETH?

Groomers can and will brush your dog's teeth. I have clients who have it done every time I groom their dogs. However, if they asked me if this was a good idea, I'd tell them the truth and say, "No." Dogs should be groomed every 6 to 8 weeks. If this is the only time the dog's teeth get brushed, it isn't going to do any good. The groomer isn't the one who should be in charge of Fido's dental health. You, the owner, should.

Over 80% of dogs, three years and older, have Periodontal disease due to a lack of proper dental care. Over time, this will cause pain and can lead to tooth loss. Getting your dog's teeth cleaned at the veterinarian requires the dog to be anesthetized, which is expensive. Tooth extraction will raise the price considerably. Preventing this outcome requires you and your pup to get acquainted with teeth brushing.

So now you've decided to brush your pet's teeth. Optimally, similar to us, a dog's teeth should be brushed twice a day, a bare minimum of at least three times a week. Like anything else in a dog's training, they will learn to expect and enjoy it in time.

The supplies for brushing a dog's teeth are pretty simple. You can purchase a toothbrush made for canines. There are also rubber finger brushes. These fit on the end of your finger like a thimble. There are also dental wipes. Various toothpastes, gels, and foams are on the market and designed specifically for dogs. Experiment and find the one that works best for you and your pet. Now, brush your dog's teeth!

Professional Dog Groomer

Cheri Sykora

Fundraising

Looking for your generous donations for our Raffle Baskets.
Raffle ticket sales help support RPDTTC!

What can I donate? Anything from dog treats to human treats, toys, equipment, home decor, candles, alcohol, gift cards, tickets, etc. Drop off every Tuesday night!



Safe travels with our dogs

You would never have humans in your moving car without a seat belt, but what about your dogs? Many people allow their dogs to do whatever they want in the car: dogs often wander the backseat or even lean halfway out the window. If you stop to think about this, you'll realize it carries a huge risk. You wouldn't let any other family member behave like this in the car – it's time to start thinking differently about how you travel with your dog.

In 2019, [Volvo conducted a safety study](#) that determined that unrestrained dogs led to significantly more unsafe driving behaviors, distracted driving, and increased stress for both the human and the dog. Finally, some dogs prefer the security of riding in a crate; they don't like cornering or sudden stops.

Safety, security, and restraint are the goals for keeping our dogs safe during the ride, as well as protection in case of a car crash. The three most common options to secure a dog in a car are:

- crates in the backseat or cargo area of an SUV, tied down with strong straps.
- harnesses attached to a seatbelt or headrest, also in the backseat.
- installing a barrier behind the 2nd or 3rd row seat, turning the cargo area into a crate.

What to Look for In a Dog Crate for Car Travel

- Size and Fit for both the dog and the car.
- Material
- Crash-testing
- Strap loops to secure the crate to the car's tie-down points.
- Good ventilation

The [Center for Pet Safety](#) (CPS) conducted a series of crash tests for dog crates in partnership with Subaru of America in 2015. CPS evaluated crates that cost between \$150 and \$1000 and put them to a series of tests. You can see the test results from the report at https://www.centerforpetsafety.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/07/2015_cps_crate_summary_072215.pdf

What to look for in a harness

- Adjustable size and fit make it easy for the dog to want to wear it.
- Safety Features so the dog can't wriggle out or be entangled.
- Ease of Use.

<https://www.bestproductsreviews.com/dog-car-harness-seat-belt-crash-tested>

Fit check - dogs in cars

Let's look at how Club members transport their dogs.



Member Margaret Henning installed two carriers in her Honda Pilot. Lena, a Border terrier, loves her Gunner crate (left). The Trans K9 carrier on the right was recently purchased for her new Golden Retriever puppy (not in this photo). This crate is wider on the bottom than on the top, giving the soon-to-be big dog more area to lie down. Both are well-ventilated on all sides and are secured by straps to the SUV's tie-downs.

Margaret says the carriers hold much of their value. When you no longer need them or if a new car has different cargo dimensions, it's easy to sell them. The Trans K9 website was easy to use. You can select your vehicle—this brand fits many SUVs—and it will display the models that fit. Then, choose the size that will fit your dog.

Member Audrey Drechsler secures her little Mochi in a harness attached to a seatbelt in the back seat of her SUV. He likes to sit in his “bassinet” because he can see out the window.

Member Kari Sheridan uses a pet barrier for her Bernese Mountain dog. Sorry, no photo, but ask her to show it to you.





After researching for this article, Vickie Henderson bought a Gunner Intermediate for her bulloxer (bulldog boxer mix) Roxie Hart. Their first trip to Roscoe, IL, for Fast Cat convinced her that she made a good choice for them!

Further recommended reading:

Check out this article for a good discussion of travel options:
The Best Dog Crates for Car Travel 2024 - Long Haul Trekkers.
<https://longhaultrekkers.com/best-dog-crates-for-car-travel/>

This article discusses harnesses:
<https://us.dogfriendlyco.com/blogs/articles/the-importance-of-a-dog-car-harness>

Pet barriers prevent dogs from getting into the front seat, but they are not rated for accidents.
<https://www.familyhandyman.com/list/best-car-dog-barriers/>

There is no “one size fits all” solution to transporting animals in a car or SUV. Determining which crates fit your specific vehicle and dog(s) requires research. Talk to other club members to see what works for them. Here are some options to consider:

Method	price	good	bad
The dog has free range in the car	\$0	It's fun to have your buddy sit next to you.	Even a sudden stop will hurl untethered dogs around in the car. Deployed airbags could kill your dog.
Sling, or hammock, in the back seat	\$30	Secured by Velcro straps around four headrests, easy to install. Keeps upholstery clean. It prevents a dog from falling onto the floor of the car. Some models have a mesh “window” to prevent dogs from climbing into the front seat.	By itself, the dog will still be unsecured in a crash. Consider adding a safety harness.
Safety harness	\$50 - \$120	A well-designed harness worn in the car makes it easy to seat-belt and secure your dog in the backseat. Dog will not be in the car's crumple zone	Some dogs still don't feel secure in a moving vehicle and may be tense.
Plastic dog crate	\$20 (used) \$150 new	Securing the crate to the car's tie-downs reduces the dog being thrown around in an accident. Some dogs prefer the security of a crate and will relax (or even go to sleep!) Lightweight, easy to install.	Most are not rated in crash tests. Strap or wedge the crate in to limit movement when driving or in case of an accident.
Metal or high-tech material dog crate	\$100 (used) \$1500 new	Made and tested to survive roll-over crashes. You can add accessories to make them very comfortable. Some are made for the backseat.	Heavy. It is the most expensive option, but crates can be resold to recover some of the cost. You must find a specific model to fit a particular car or SUV.

Where to buy: LL Bean, Bass Pro Shops, and stores specializing in hunting have them on display; check the return policy in case they don't fit in your car or dog. Facebook Marketplace, Craigslist, and Offer Up are good for finding used crates.

And again, talk to club members to discuss how and why they solved their transportation issues. It truly is not a one-size-fits-all question.

Introducing Tracking!

Levels of Tracking

There are three levels of AKC tracking: TD, TDX, and VST. Once a dog earns a TD title, it may then go on to compete in either TDX or VST tests. When the tracking team has passed all three levels, it is awarded with a Champion Tracker (CT) title.

Tracking Dog A (TD)

This track is the basic level of tracking, with tracks ranging from 440 to 500 yards, 3 to 5 turns, and aged between 1/2 hour and 2 hours. The team approaches the starting flag, where an article has been placed. A second flag is placed 30 yards away and indicates the direction of the first leg of the track. The team is successful when the dog follows the tracklayer's scent and indicates a glove or wallet at the end of the track.

Tracking Dog Urban (TDU)

The fundamental features of the Tracking Dog Urban (TDU) test are the dog's ability to follow a track laid by a person under various scenting conditions in an urban environment and to find the articles dropped by that person. The TDU is an optional titling event. Clubs are not required to offer this test, and dogs are not required to earn the title to enter a TD, TDX, or VST tracking test.

Tracking Dog Excellent (TDX)

At this more advanced level, the TDX track is aged between 3 to 5 hours and is between 800 to 1000 yards long, with 5 to 7 turns on the track. There is one start flag, and once at the flag, the dog must discern which way the scent goes. Along the way, the dog must find four articles, including an article at the starting flag. The articles are placed on the track by the tracklayer and are of a personal nature, such as a sock, scarf, or a small piece of clothing. There are additional challenges, such as two cross-tracks that test the dog's scent discrimination, as well as two scenting obstacles that could consist of changes of cover, such as through swamps, over hills, roads, or gullies. At the end of the track is a glove or wallet; upon finding it, the team earns their TDX title.

Variable Surface Tracking (VST)

VST is considered the most challenging level of tracking. The dog must track over at least three different types of surfaces: a vegetated surface such as grass, and 1/3 to 1/2 of the track must be over at least two non-vegetated surfaces such as concrete, gravel, sand, etc. The track is 600 to 800 yards long, is aged 3 to 5 hours, and contains 4 to 8 turns, one of which is a "moment of truth" turn on a non-vegetated surface. As in TDX, there is one start flag where the dog must discern the direction of the track. There are four articles made of fabric, leather, plastic, and metal that the dog must find on the track. At least one of the articles must be placed on a non-vegetated surface. VST tracks are laid in populated areas, approach buildings, go across roads and parking lots, follow sidewalks, and create an entirely different scenting challenge for the dog.

Champion Tracker (CT)

A dog that has successfully completed all three tracking titles (TD, TDX, and VST) earns the prestigious title of Champion Tracker.

Get Nosy!

Dogs have an amazing sense of smell - about 100,000 times stronger than humans. That strong sense of smell is why dogs are well-suited for tracking. Get your dog involved in tracking where he can sniff and smell to his heart's content and demonstrate his natural ability to recognize and follow a scent.



You never really realize how strange dog sports are until you try to describe to other people what you do for fun 🤔👉👉👉

From the K-9 Kitchen

This is the EASIEST Homemade Dog Treats Recipe - no baking involved! Simply mix, roll, and serve! Your pup is sure to go nuts over these healthier peanut butter treats!

Prep Time: 15 minutes *Cook Time:* 3 minutes *Yield:* treats

Ingredients

- 1/2 cup **pumpkin puree**
- 1/2 cup **applesauce**
- 1/4 cup **peanut butter**
- 1/4 cup **plain yogurt**
- 1 strip **bacon** cooked and crumbled
- 2 1/2 cup **old fashioned oats**



Instructions

1. In a large bowl, stir together pumpkin, applesauce, peanut butter, and yogurt until well combined.
2. Stir in bacon and oats.
3. Use a cookie scoop to form into uniform treats.
4. Store in the fridge or freezer until your pup gets a treat!



Upcoming AKC shows, all-breed/mixed-breed, Obedience, Rally and Tracking

Event Date	Event	Closing Date	Club	location
June 14, 2024	Obedience	May 29	Winnebago Lab. Ret. Club	Loves Park, IL
June 15, 2024	Rally / Ob	May 30	Golden Retriever Club of Illinois	Spring Grove, IL
June 16, 2024	Rally / Ob	May 29	North Shore DTC	Spring Grove, IL
June 22, 2024	Ob	June 5	Western Waukesha Cty DTC	Ixonia, WI
Aug 2 & 3, 2024	Rally / Ob	July 26	Stone City Kennel Club	New Lenox, IL
Aug 23 - 25, 2024	Rally / Ob	Aug 7	Car-Dun-AI Obedience DTC	Huntley, IL
Sept 8, 2024	Tx	Aug 22	Fox Valley DTC	Elgin, IL

Packing list to survive a trial

Many events are in remote industrial or rural locations, so packing everything you require is key to enjoying the day. Coordinate going to shows with club members, it is very helpful to have friends who can help out with listening for your turn to enter the ring, video record your performance and to cheer you on!

- Flat collar, Martingale collar, or training collar. You cannot trial in a pinch collar
- 6 foot lead
- Poop bags, a few paper towels, hand sanitizer
- Picnic lunch for you, something appropriate for your dog.
- Water for you and your dog.
- Camp chair (foldable and easy to carry)
- Kennel for your dog to den up and sleep
- If it is hot, bring a battery powered fan for your dog's kennel
- USB power bank to charge your phone
- Wear: comfortable shoes, layers in case it gets hot or cold



Fit Dog

Fit Dog events are flexibly planned: we identify both an outdoor meetup location and a backup indoor location, as well as a backup date should the weather be extraordinarily terrible. So far, we've found walkable terrain with nearby washrooms in lovely settings.

It's a great way to train your dog in new situations and enjoy chatting with other Club members.

Rand Park DTC is a Fit Dog Club.

If you'd like to learn more about getting a Fit Dog Title or just learn more about its goals, check out: www.akc.org/sports/akc-family-dog-program/akc-fit-dog/

Please note: participating dogs must not be reactive.

Mark your calendars: the summer Fit Dog walk is planned for Sunday, July 14, 2024, with a makeup date of July 21, 2024. Stay tuned for more details!

For more information, please email Vickie Henderson at vkbsa1541@gmail.com or Teena Horne at tinyang@earthlink.net

Meet the Instructor



Jake Meding and Palazzo

Jake first came to Rand Park as a student in 2021 because he and his wife, Annice, were in a “baaaaaad spot.” The couple discussed rehoming their young dog, Palazzo, because he was so misbehaved. They spoke with several trainers who recommended Rand Park. During their first lesson, they were told they needed extra help from the instructor, who met with them at their home a few hours at a time.

Jake and Palazzo’s training journey has not only transformed Palazzo’s behavior but also strengthened their bond. Palazzo now looks to Jake for guidance and is a picture of good manners, a testament to the power of training in enhancing the human-dog relationship.

Jake says having a well-trained dog makes having a dog a thousand times more fun because you can go anywhere with them and do anything with them. You’ll feel comfortable and safe with them, and you aren’t worried about them. “It’s such a different life than not having a trained dog.”

News from Erin Straka...



Member and instructor Erin Straka, seen here with her dad Paul, is working in Germany. She'll return to us after summer.

Senior Visitation Hours

- 2nd Saturday of the month, resuming in September
- Dogs must be comfortable around other dogs in tight spaces
- Dogs must be comfortable being petted by several people
- Dogs must not be fed by the residents at any time
- You must be a member or a current student and your dog must be well behaved and non-reactive to participate in Demonstrations

Ascension Living Nazarethville Place 300 N River Rd, Des Plaines IL 60016

If interested, before attendance, contact Barb Piche at 872-276-3331 or remi2332@sbcglobal.net



Humor

"MY DOG
DESTROYS SO
MUCH AND
PEES
EVERYWHERE
WHEN I LEAVE
THE HOUSE I
DON'T KNOW
WHAT TO DO
I'VE TRIED
EVERYTHING"

ME:



In Memorium

PAWPRINTS LEFT BY YOU

You no longer greet us,
As We walk through the door.
You're not there to make us smile,
To make us laugh anymore.
Life seems quiet without you,
You were far more than a pet.
You were a family member, a friend.
. . . a loving soul (We will never forget).
It will take time to heal -
For the silence to go away.
We still listen for you,
And miss you everyday.
You were such a GREAT companion,
Constant, loyal and true.
Our heart will always wear,
the PAWPRINTS left by you!

Tara will be terribly missed by owners
Bill & Gloria Urquhart & her sister Scarlet



Thanks to our contributors,

Recipes: Vickie Henderson
Barb Pische: Nursing home visits
Cheri Sikora: Professional Groomer

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The next submission deadline is July 5, 2024, for the July 15th issue

Next Issue... Nosework information!

Notice of training cancellation will also be posted on the Club's website:

<http://www.randparkdtc.org> and Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/RandParkDTC>