



SAR Dog News

August 2009 Published by the National Search Dog Alliance Vol. 3, No. 08

The Voice of K-9 Search and Rescue @ n-sda.org

Founding members: K-9 Stryker, K-9 Thor, K-9 Beau, Eileen M. Nobles, Susan Bulanda, K-9 Roo, Leslie Godchaux, Brian R. Hendrickson, Continental Kennel Club, Inc., K-9 River, K-9 Persha, Jan Thompson, K-9 Cali, Peggy Ann Buchman, K-9 Geist

Closing date for receipt of applications for the Hernandez Search Dog Sponsorship is 31 August 2009. Applications received after this date will not be processed. An application is attached to this newsletter or can be located at: www.n-sda.org



DOG DAYS of SUMMER

It's August. Summer's not over. Fall hasn't started yet. Life slows down in the heat.

For some, it's time for last minute vacations. For others, children have already gone back to school.

For some in SAR, the busiest part of their search year is ending. For others it will be beginning soon.

No matter what the season, there's always someone needing help: a hiker lost in a national forest, a child who wandered away from home, an Alzheimer's patient lost in the past or a skier caught in an avalanche. That's why we train: to be ready when we're needed. That's also why we certify: to demonstrate that our training is consistent, valid and effective.

Even though the weather is hot and it's a sleepy season, NSDA is still working toward certification testing. Some standards have already been written while some are being done. Avalanche is finished, out there and testing has been done. The Area written standard is being finalized and testing has been done. Land HRD written is also being completed and will be out for testing shortly. Trailing is ready for Beta testing and Water HRD is ready for Peer Review.

NSDA plans to implement e-learning for its programs. This will give more handlers access to expert training without a major cost involvement. Training modules are being developed relating to all subjects covered in the General Test i.e. K-9 first aid, ICS, etc. Each field, such as Area, will have an individual unit relating specifically to it.

Evaluator Guidelines have been developed so that there will be uniformity in testing procedures. These have been reviewed by the Evaluator Committee and will be sent to the Board for approval.



Putting out standards involves more than just their development. The basic nuts and bolts of testing procedures are being worked out. This includes who gets what paperwork. Where does what go after the test is finished. Who keeps

what on file and for how long. Everything needs to flow smoothly so that the handler gets their certifications in a timely manner after they've passed their test.

Record keeping is also important. A personnel file for each Evaluator will be kept which will include their application and critiques received after each test. Testing paperwork and certifications issued are being kept on file as well. A Resource List is being developed for the website to assist law enforcement as well as the canine community as to location and capabilities of SAR teams.

Website re-design is also in the process. Biographies of former Board members will be included so that those coming after will know what these people contributed to the creation of NSDA.

NSDA not only has big plans but is implementing them...perhaps not as fast as we would all like but they are getting done. NSDA shall stand for excellence in the K-9 SAR field. In order to do that, NSDA must do things carefully in order to be right and to truly be *the voice of K-9 search and rescue*.

Perspective

By Pat Totillo

I was unable to attend the meeting on July 16th, so I cannot report on that meeting.

On August 6, 2009 Board Members present were: Sue Wolff, Terry Crooks, Norma Snelling, Sherry Scruggs, Dee Wild and Larry Welker.

Absent were: Cameron Daggett (traveling and out of phone reception), Jacob Weaver (deployed on a search) and Cris Goodhue.

Guests attending: Jan Meyers and myself.

A lot of time was spent discussing the development of the webpage. An e-learning type of program on the webpage would be a huge benefit for members. We are very fortunate to



have Larry Welker on the Board. Larry is very knowledgeable in this area and can speak “geek”! He is working with webpage designers and technicians to institute e-learning for NSDA.

Much progress has been made since the quarterly meeting. The Evaluator Education Program is close to being completed. This is exciting news! Currently there are twenty-seven evaluators.

The Land HRD standards have been beta tested and will be finalized shortly. Water HRD standards are under peer review and should be ready for beta testing soon. The proposed trailing standard is close to being completed. The Guidelines for Evaluators regarding the mechanics and paperwork is being developed.

It has been a long road but it appears the finish line is near. There is a lot of crossing the “T”s and dotting the “I”s in creating a program such as this. The Board and various committee members have spent many hours developing the certification program to ensure the end product is a creditable one. The final result will be a certification that every handler will be proud to obtain.

Getting a New Puppy?

The guidebook for selecting your canine SAR partner is now available. *Pick of the Pack* is over 100 pages of the things you should know in selecting not only a puppy but any new dog meant to be used in search and rescue. Temperament and Temperament evaluations are covered along with definitions and tests for Confidence and Nerve Strength. Aggression and Socialization, Anxiety and Fear are all things to be familiar with before you train a dog. If you are thinking about having a litter or waiting for one, know about the first eight weeks of Puppy Enrichment. Contact snelling@olyphen.com to order.

Members \$17.95, non-members \$19.95.

AUGUST PODCAST

NSDA's next PODCAST is scheduled for 8:00 PM EDT on August 23, 2009. This PODCAST will conclude our team training series with a program that addresses 'What do you do when your team arrives at the Search Site'. Our panel will include experienced handlers from the east coast, middle America, and the far western United States. Every part of our country is different as far as search operations are concerned...but there is a constant – Someone needs our help!

Our panel will discuss and compare some of the things that work at a search and some of the things that are counter productive.

The best part of NSDA PODCAST is that you don't need to participate directly in the live program. The general public can listen or download NSDA Episodes by merely going to <http://www.talkshoe.com/tc/21763>. All PODCAST episodes remain available for download indefinitely and are labeled by topic so you can pick and choose the program you're interested in.

The NSDA PODCAST can also be updated automatically via an RSS on iTunes.com. Just go to iTunes.com or Google and enter 'NSDA PODCAST' as your search term and you will find additional ways to listen to and download all of the NSDA PODCAST episodes.

Previous episodes available for download:

- Episode 1: NIMS Class Typing and NSDA Standards
- Episode 2: Establishing sound relationships with Requesting Authorities
- Episode 3: Developing a Team Training Program
- Episode 4: Developing a Team Training Program for Area/Airscenting Teams
- Episode 5: Developing a Training Program for a Trailing Canine Team

Episode 6: Developing a Team Training Program for Land HRD

Episode 7: Developing a Team Training Program for Water HRD

Episode 8: HRD Canine Teams and Native American Burial Grounds, Part 1

Episode 9: HRD Canine Teams and Native American Burial Grounds, Part 2

Episode 10: Maintaining Operational Team Proficiency

Episode 11: NSDA Status on Standard Development and a year in review

New Concept for NSDA Seminars

This year NSDA opted out of giving a conference or seminar in order to concentrate on developing K-9 standards. Next year NSDA will again offer seminars.



When a national organization holds a conference, the first consideration is location. This is always a problem when trying to appeal to everyone

but keep travel costs to a minimum.

In order to avoid some of these conflicts, NSDA plans to have at least two small, localized conferences with limited subject matter. Being either north, south, east or west should eliminate some of the travel costs and conflicts. Bringing in instructors from other sections of the country will allow for variety of training.

Classes will be limited to six handlers with dogs. If necessary, NSDA will add instructors, not students, to a category.

The first NSDA seminar in 2010 is planned for **Cody, Wyoming, June 23-27**. Please put the date on your calendar and plan to attend.

**SUMMER K-9 READING LIST
– THE BEACH/MOUNTAIN
EDITION**

By Monica McFadden



Last month the newsletter contained the K-9 Summer Reading List. Board Members and Book Review Committee Members submitted their favorite dog training and theory books. Hope you enjoyed them.

Two more submissions came in for the “serious list”. [Again, no book reports necessary].

The Dog’s Mind by Bruce Fogle
http://www.amazon.com/Dogs-Mind-Understanding-Behavior-reference/dp/0876055137/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1249492408&sr=8-1

Leader of the Pack by Nancy Baer and Steve Duno
http://www.amazon.com/Leader-Pack-Nancy-Baer/dp/0061010197/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1249492522&sr=8-1

But now to the fun stuff. It’s the last gasp of summer. Many of us are heading for the end of summer vacation at the mountains or the beach. It’s time to relax and just enjoy.

So our second request to the Board and Committee was to submit books/DVD’s, etc. about dogs or animals that they enjoy just for fun.

This brought in not only submissions but a lovely story about how some of these popular media shaped a life. So here they are:

Books:

Beyond the Body Farm by Dr. Bill Bass and Jon Jefferson
http://www.amazon.com/Beyond-Body-Farm-Legendary-Revolution/dp/0060875283/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1249492934&sr=8-1

Bones of Betrayal by Jefferson Bass.
http://www.amazon.com/Bones-Betrayal-Body-Farm-Novel/dp/0061284742/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1249493013&sr=8-1 [Sue Wolff noted that the K-9, Cherokee, mentioned in this book was on her team and is honored on the NSDA K-9 Memorial Page]

Black Ribbon by Susan Conant
http://www.amazon.com/Black-Ribbon-Susan-Conant/dp/0553762257/ref=sr_1_2?ie=UTF8&qid=1249493826&sr=8-2

The Story of Edgar Sawtelle by David Wroblewski
http://www.amazon.com/Story-Edgar-Sawtelle-Novel-P-S/dp/0061374237/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1249493887&sr=8-1

Dog Man: An Uncommon Life on a Faraway Mountain by Martha Sherill
http://www.amazon.com/Dog-Man-Uncommon-Faraway-Mountain/dp/1594201242/ref=sr_1_13?ie=UTF8&qid=1249494732&sr=8-13

Dog on It: A Chet and Bernie Mystery by Spencer Quinn
http://www.amazon.com/Dog-Bernie-Mystery-Spencer-Quinn/dp/1416585842/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1249494865&sr=8-1

A Dog About Town by J.F. Englert
http://www.amazon.com/Dog-About-Town-J-Englert/dp/0440243637/ref=sr_1_2?ie=UTF8&sr=1-2

The Art of Racing in the Rain by Garth Stein.
http://www.amazon.com/Art-Racing-Rain-Novel/dp/0061537969/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1249495847&sr=8-1

The Dogs of Bedlam Farm: An Adventure with Sixteen Sheep, Three Dogs, Two Donkeys, and Me by Jon Katz.
http://www.amazon.com/Dogs-Bedlam-Farm-Adventure-Sixteen/dp/0812972503/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1249495922&sr=8-1

A Cold Day for Murder by Dana Stabenow
<http://www.stabenow.com/novels/kate-shugak/a-cold-day-for-murder>

The Cruellest Miles: The Heroic Story of Dogs and Men in a Race Against an Epidemic by Gay Salisbury
http://www.amazon.com/Cruellest-Miles-Heroic-Against-Epidemic/dp/0393019624/ref=sr_1_8?ie=UTF8&qid=1249496706&sr=8-8

Movies/DVD:

Old Yeller by Disney
[http://www.amazon.com/Old-Yeller-Vault-Disney-Collection/dp/B00005RRG4/ref=](http://www.amazon.com/Old-Yeller-Vault-Disney-Collection/dp/B00005RRG4/ref=sr_1_5?ie=UTF8&qid=1249494003&sr=8-5)
[sr_1_5?ie=UTF8&qid=1249494003&sr=8-5](http://www.amazon.com/Old-Yeller-Vault-Disney-Collection/dp/B00005RRG4/ref=sr_1_5?ie=UTF8&qid=1249494003&sr=8-5)
 (Larry Welker wrote: “[this] plus the TV shows “Lassie” and “Rin-Tin-Tin”. Don’t laugh... I’ve measured me and my labs against those great dog fantasies”. He also notes that a lot of what he is “comes from growing up with that ole yellar dog and that smart GSD...)

The Legend of Rin Tin Tin
http://www.amazon.com/Legend-Rin-Tin-48-Episodes/dp/B001072DFW/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1249494194&sr=8-1 (Note: this link is to the older movies. Individual episodes of the TV show are also available)

Lassie http://www.amazon.com/Lassie-50th-Anniversary-TV-Collection/dp/B0002VEYV8/ref=sr_1_2?ie=UTF8&qid=1249494531&sr=8-2

Eight Below by Disney
http://www.amazon.com/Eight-Below-Full-Screen-Walker/dp/B000F4PDF8/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1249493094&sr=8-1

Lady and the Tramp by Disney
http://www.amazon.com/Lady-Tramp-Anniversary-Barbara-Luddy/dp/B000B8QG4A/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1249493650&sr=8-1
 (Who can ever forget the spaghetti scene?)

101 Dalmations by Disney
http://www.amazon.com/Dalmatians-Two-Disc-Platinum-Marjorie-Bennett/dp/B000YERP2S/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1249493736&sr=8-1

Homeward Bound by Disney
http://www.amazon.com/Homeward-Bound-Incredible-Michael-Fox/dp/6304711913/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1249494577&sr=8-1

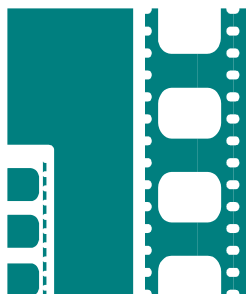
Air Bud by Disney
http://www.amazon.com/Homeward-Bound-Incredible-Michael-Fox/dp/6304711913/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1249494577&sr=8-1 (a full series)

A Man and His Dogs by Martin Clunes.
<http://www.itv.com/Lifestyle/Dogs/default.html>
 (seen on TV in Great Britain. Here’s a link to a book by the same author. **A Dog’s Life:**
http://www.amazon.com/Dogs-Life-Martin-Clunes/dp/0340977051/ref=sr_1_4?ie=UTF8&qid=1249493228&sr=8-4)

The Wizard of Oz
http://www.amazon.com/Wizard-70th-Anniversary-Two-Disc-Special/dp/B002DYYGQK/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1249495112&sr=8-1 (watch it for Toto’s perfect alert and refund to the Lion, Scarecrow and Tin Man to save Dorothy from the Wicked Witch - through spears!)

And if we’ve missed something, here’s what is advertised as the most complete list of movies featuring dogs or with dogs as extras – by breed!
<http://westminsterkc.tripod.com/video.htm>

Enjoy!



TRAINING

September 11-13, California SAREX, Yosemite National Park. For more information, see www.sarex2009.com

September 11-13, WA State Dog Meet, Stanwood, Washington, Warm Beach Christian Camp and Conference Center; **NSDA certification testing offered**; meals, lodging, and registration of \$95 (\$110 if postmarked after August 10th and \$125 if postmarked after September 1st); Registration forms & additional information available at: <http://www.scvsark9.org/2009DogMeet.aspx>

Sept 18-20 Arizona SAR (AZSAR) Conference, Salvation Army Camp Ponderosa in Heber, AZ. Contact Janes Langston (620) 464-6220.

October 9-11, SAR City, California, billed as the largest SAR school on the West Coast: training and information sharing for rescue, fire, medical and law enforcement. For more information, see <http://www.bcconline.com/sarcity/index.htm>

October 9-10, Ohio 1st Annual SAR Conference, Hidden Hollow Camp in Bellville, OH. Robert Koester will be giving courses on Lost Person Behavior, Search Management and Urban Search. For conference schedule and registration go to the link below and click on Special Events.
www.ohiospecialresponseteam.org

October 10, Ohio Special Response Team inaugural conference in Mansfield Ohio. For more information, contact info@dbs-sar.com

October 15, Northwest SARCon, Clackamas County, Oregon: For information, see <http://www.clackamas.us/sheriff/sarcon/>

November 8th - 13th 2009, Brevard County, Florida, Sheriff's Office HRD Seminar in Titusville/Cocoa Florida. Questions should be directed to Sgt Steve Feaster @ 321-403-5777 or Stephen.feaster@brevardsheriff.com and Cpl Chris Wood @ 321-302-0338 or Christopher.wood@brevardsheriff.com
Downloadable Flyer & Registration Forms: <http://www.bayarearecoverycanines.com/seminars.htm>

June 23 - 27, 2010, NSDA HRD and Area Search Seminar, Cody, Wyoming. Watch www.n-sda.org for future information.

PET FOOD CONTAMINATORS SUBMIT GUILTY PLEAS

Two of the individuals central to the pet food contamination that afflicted thousands of dogs and cats submitted guilty pleas to numerous misdemeanor charges and a single felony charge. The married co-owners, Stephen and Sally Miller of ChemNutra, were originally scheduled for sentencing on June 16th but that was postponed and has yet to be rescheduled.



The Miller's were indicted for their actions of knowingly distributing more than 800 tons of melamine-laced wheat gluten in more than a dozen shipments imported from China. The couple passed off these tainted supplies as high-grade protein ingredients. It was sold to several of the largest producers of canned pet food and ultimately resulted in the recall of over 150 different brands of pet food.

The maximum sentence could be two years in prison without parole and hundreds of thousands of dollars in fines. Prosecutors handling the case have indicated their openness to leniency, recommending that the court impose a \$25,000 fine against ChemNutra, \$5,000 each against the Millers, and sentence the Miller's to three years of probation each.

As a note, ChemNutra is one of the 20-plus companies required to contribute to a \$24 million compensation fund, the outcome of a class-action lawsuit brought by families affected by the recall. How much ChemNutra paid into this fund is not a matter of public record, and may never be made known.

CLONED SNIFFER DOGS

South Korea's Customs Service has deployed the "world's first cloned sniffer dogs" to check for drugs at its main airport and at border crossings.

"They are the world's first cloned sniffer dogs deployed at work," Park Jeong-Heon, a customs spokesman at Seoul's Incheon International Airport, told AFP news agency.

"They showed better performances in detecting illegal drugs during the training than other naturally-born sniffer dogs that we have." Only about 30% of naturally born sniffer dogs make the grade but South Korean scientists say that could rise to 90% using the cloning method.

The new recruits are part of a litter of seven puppies who were cloned in 2007 from a "superb" drug-sniffing Canadian Labrador retriever called Chase, officials said.

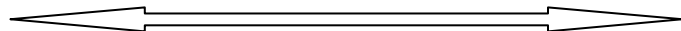
Six puppies completed a 16-month education program. One dropped out of the training due to an injury.



The cloning work was conducted by a team of scientists at Seoul National University who created the world's first cloned dog - an Afghan hound named Snuppy. The state-funded project cost about 300m won (\$239,000).

These clones are all called Topy, a combination of "tomorrow" and "puppy".

Source: news.bbc.co.uk



The brightest future will always be based on a forgotten past. You can't go forward in life until you let go of your past failures and heartaches.

HUMAN-DOG COMMUNICATION

Breed plays an important role in communication between humans and dogs, according to a new study. The study suggests that dogs that were bred for close cooperation with humans or bred for focused attention (brachycephalic dogs with frontally placed eyes) were better at comprehending the pointing gestures of humans than other dogs.

The first part of the study compared breeds selected to work in close cooperation with people (e.g. sheepdogs and retrievers) with independent workers (e.g. terriers and hounds) and mixed breeds. The cooperative workers "were significantly more successful in utilizing the human pointing gesture than both the independent workers and the mongrels," the study says.

The second part of the study compared the performance of dogs with high cephalic index and frontally placed eyes (brachycephalic breeds such as pugs and boxers) with breeds with low cephalic index and laterally placed eyes (dolichocephalic breeds such as greyhounds and Doberman pinschers). The scientists found that the brachycephalic group outperformed the dolichocephalic group, possibly due to the former group's ability for more focused attention.

The scientists concluded that breed differences in ability to comprehend human gestures should be taken into account when performing future studies on dog behavior and cognition.

"After controlling for environmental factors, we have provided evidence that at least two independent phenotypic traits with certain genetic variability affect the ability of dogs to rely on human visual cues," the study says. "This finding should caution researchers against making simple generalizations about the effects of domestication and on dog-wolf differences in the utilization of human visual signals."

The study is published in the open access online journal [Behavioral and Brain Functions](http://www.behavioralandbrainfunctions.com/content/pdf/1744-9081-5-31.pdf).
<http://www.behavioralandbrainfunctions.com/content/pdf/1744-9081-5-31.pdf>

source: www.biomedcentral.com

YIP YAP

By Dana Kirsch Ray

Opinions expressed in this column are those of the author and not necessarily those of the National Search Dog Alliance. Questions for this column can be sent to trainingquestions@n-sda.org

Snow Crash

We've all heard the first tenet of dog training: consistency. As such we're all, each of us, working on our handler skill trying to be ever more consistent.

It's a process, and there really is no clear destination to the journey. We examine our training methods and look for places to improve our consistency so the learning for the dog is faster and comes with less conflict. We strive for black and white and look for where we can get rid of areas of gray.

Specifically those black and white behaviors translate into things like right and wrong, rules, and limits. They form a general shape to the behavior. Unlike the process of consistency, these shaped behaviors do have goals and destinations. Go to any trial or competition and you can learn all about point deductions and desirable attitudes. Even in SAR, we can always work on the behavior to improve its shape. If nothing less, we can work on things like speed and efficiency of behavior.

What you may not have thought of is that, even when working in the world of black and white, there are gray hues. What one dog may intuitively understand or generalize, another may not. Some dogs, more than others, need extra repetitions to get the hang of it.

This un-quantifiable amount of needed consistency is what makes the partnership in the dog team critical. Think of the static on your TV

set (if you can remember that far back). While the bits and pixels are all made up of black and white, the further back you stand from the set, the more the image looks like snow.

The same can be said for dog training. Consistency is like the distance from the TV which reveals the Snow Crash to be individual pixels.

One person's definition of being consistent may not match their neighbor's definition. Only the dog and handler can decide how much consistency is needed or required or desired.

When you get your next dog, remember that. Consistency is not an absolute!

Executive Board--

Sue Wolff, President, Tennessee
srt1530@starband.net
 Terry Crooks, Vice-President, Montana
tcrooks@frontiernet.net
 Sherry Scruggs, Secretary, Florida
k-9tracer@cox.net
 Norma Snelling, Treasurer, Washington
snelling@olypen.com
 Cameron Daggett, Idaho
camdaggett@cox.net
 Cris Goodhue, Montana
bcgoodhue@blackfoot.net
 Jan Meyer, Missouri
janmeyer@att.net
 Jacob Weaver, Georgia
jacobweaver@bellsouth.net
 Larry Welker, Alabama
lwelker@aol.com
 Dee Wild, Louisiana
dwild1@bellsouth.net

Advisory Board--

- Mary Jane Boyd
- Susan Bulanda
- Lisa Higgins
- Marcia Koenig
- Carol Ann Namur
- Robert Noziska
- A. E. Wolff

