

LEAD AND COLLAR



August/September 2009

Club Officers		
President	Michelle Foutch	402-733-7063
Vice-President	Erin Embrey	402-672-2741
Secretary	Nora Boyd	712-624-8120
Treasurer	Kathy Novak	712-545-9059
Training Director	Deb Frady	402-733-8885
Board Members	John Wilson	402-551-1980
	Debra Landon	402-298-7196
	Marlene Lee	712-328-0619
Other Contacts		
Sunshine Person	Sharon Miller	402-731-8124
Club Web Site	http://www.bdocneb.org	
Class Coordinator	Caroline Rice	402-298-7185
BDOC Vouchers	Alberta Gray	402-572-7190
Club Newsletter	Sherry Rife	712-585-3427
Editor Email	greydog@myfmmc.com	

Events to Note

July 30 Match at Gerianne's
 Aug. 19 General Meeting at Valentinos 6:30 p.m.
 Sept 4-6 CPE Trial
 Sept. 11-13 Fall Agility Trials
 Sept. 15 Newsletter Deadline for the Oct/Nov. Issue
 Sept. 19-20 Herding Trial at Gerianne's
 Oct. 23-25 BDOC Obedience & Rally Trials
 Show-n-Go's at Companion: Aug. 23, Sept. 13, Oct. 11

August 19th, 2009: BDOC General Membership Meeting, Valentino's Restaurant, 108th and O Streets, Omaha. Just South of L and 108th Streets. Meet in the banquet room. Starts at 6:30 p.m.
 Point of Contact: Michelle Foutch, President, email: Foutch1@cox.net.

~ If you want to be friends with somebody else's dog, let the dog make the first move, and don't be too quick to respond.

Dates on the August/September Calendar

Aug. 21st Ramadan Begins

September-Responsible Dog Ownership Month

Sept. 7 Labor Day

Sept. 17 Citizenship Day

22nd First Day of Autumn

27th Yom Kippur

Letter From The Judge

Thank-you for sending a very complimentary email to Denise. It is nice to know that we did a good job for you, but it is nice for UKC to know that we did one too.

We had such a good time at your trials this weekend. Your stewards are the best. Thanks to Marlene, Dean, Myron, Shirley, and Peggy. They made the trial so easy from start to finish.

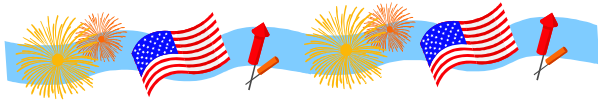
Thanks to Kathy for doing a great job of organizing the trials.

And Thank-you for hosting the trials. I can only imagine the work and worry you put into it in the weeks before the actual trials. Your property is a dog person's dream. It is just so beautiful and I know there is a lot of work to get it back into shape after having all the dogs, people and cars in and out of your drive.

Thanks again to you, Gerianne and to your UKC club. They outdid themselves again.

Have a good week,

Sheryl Peterson, UKC Obedience/Rally Judge #6098



CPE/UKC Agility/Obedience Trials

By Gerianne Darnell

Our fifth annual CPE/UKC agility/obedience trials were a huge success. On Friday we had awesome weather, then it rained an inch Friday night. That was fine, then it rained three more inches Saturday night :-). My agility building flooded all the way through, and the agility field was a lake. We were going to cancel the agility portion of the trial, then we found a little dryer patch of ground to have the game classes on, and by the time they were done, we were able to fit the standard course around the (now smaller) lake on the field. Everybody was very, very happy that we were able to have the trial at all, and pitched in to help. We had an amazing 494 agility runs for the weekend! On the UKC obedience/rally side, we ended up with a terrific entry of 30-33 rally and entries 15-18 obedience entries each day, and although crating/seating was tight, no water made it in to the building and people had a marvelous time and really enjoyed the rent a ring that we had after each trial.

Special thanks goes to Agility Chair Bert Gray, Agility Secretary Rosemary Strasser, Obedience/rally secretary Kathy Novak, Obedience/rally Chief Ring Steward Peggy Battig, Agility Chief Ring Steward Nora Boyd with big help from Cheryl Dikeman, Chief Course Builders Randy Frady and John Wilson, Ribbon person Linda Puckett, and food people extraordinaire Darwin and Christie Baker. Other Club members who helped set up, move equipment, steward, sweep floors, tote trash, and all of the other jobs that needed to be done were [Deb Landon](#), [Dave Landon](#), [Dick Battig](#), [Dean Lee](#), [Marlene Lee](#), [Shirley Stephens](#), [Mac Stephens](#), [Sue Volkner](#), [Kim Embry](#), [Erin Embry](#), [Michelle Foutch](#), [Connie Byrnes](#), and [Mark Larsen](#). Member applicant Trisha Burbach also helped all three days as did our junior member, Devin Kemmish.

We had a huge crew of clean-up people, and it only took us about 45 minutes or so to have everything put away and cleaned up, and we then convened to the Tastee Treat for ice cream. Once again, I heard comments at the trial like "What a friendly club you have" and "Wow, I can't believe how much help you have". Thanks so much to each and every one of you.

Comments From The President

I hope that you are all enjoying your summer, having some wonderful vacation times, and playing with your canine buddies. The club has been very busy with the UKC/CPE trials, the club picnic, and most recently showing and helping out at the NKC trials just held on July 10-12, 2009, at the Qwest Center.

It was a beautiful sunny day when we enjoyed our Annual Picnic on June 28th at Hayworth Park in Bellevue. Thank goodness the weather was nothing like last year when we had the tornado come through the same day as the picnic! We had a good turn-out of approximately 22 members, lots of good food, some interesting conversations about upcoming events, and lots of brags.

Please **Mark Your Calendars** and possibly find some time to participate and volunteer in these fun filled club events: **July 30th**: FUN MATCH - being held at Gerianne Darnell's training facilities. **(This fun match is being held to raise money for our annual obedience and rally trophy funds) Obedience, Rally, and Agility will be offered at this fun match.**

***Sept 4-7**: CPE TRIALS - just approved by CPE. These trials are being held at Gerianne Darnell's training facilities. To get a copy of the premium contact Rose Strasser at japchinrose@cox.net or Alberta Gray at hairyd@cox.net.

***Sept 11-13**: FALL AKC AGILITY TRIALS. These are being held at the Nebraska Humane Society. Contact Gerianne Darnell at GerianneDarnell@aol.com. If wanting to volunteer contact Cheryl Dikeman at cheryldikeman@yahoo.com.

The purchase of BDOC Ballcaps and Head Visors was approved at the annual picnic. If interested in purchasing one of these items, please contact Dee Nelson at FFEMTB27@aol.com. Remember you can use your volunteer vouchers to purchase any clothing items.

Our next training classes are scheduled as follows: **July 21**: Beginner's and Puppy Classes. Location: Jade's Pet Club.

July 22: Rally Obedience Class. Location: Gerianne Darnell's Sunshine Obedience School.

Hope to see you all at our next **General Membership meeting on August 19, 2009** at Valentino's

Restaurant located on 108th and O streets, Omaha, NE. Meeting begins at 6:30 p.m.

Wishing You Some Happy Doggie Days!!
Michelle

From the Vice President

Erin Embrey

I just want to send out a Thank You to those Club Members that came out to the Summer Picnic at Hayworth Park! I had a good time and all the food was wonderful! I hope others had a good evening and the dogs were all well behaved, of course!

And, a reminder for "stuff" for the October Obedience Trial. We need more "stuff" to make baskets and just for us to auction off. I have toys and leashes bowls and decoration/nick knacks as well as some solar lights! So if you run across something you haven't seen or used in a while we could use it!

Godfather Style Dog Training

Eric Letendre ~ amazingdogtrainingman.com

I love the AMC Channel.

Why?

Because they show all my favorite movies. This month, they have been showing one of my all time favorites, "The Godfather."

As I was sitting there chomping on some popcorn, I was struck with a thought as Marlon Brando uttered the now famous line, "I'm gonna make him an offer he can't refuse."

You see, dog training is the same. In order to get training results, you need to make your dog an offer he can't refuse. I'm NOT talking about the kind of motivation that Don Corleone and Luca Brasi use. They use negative motivation to get results.

Instead of using violence and anger, you want to find ways to positively motivate your dog. A point that I always stress when I am teaching someone how to train his or her dog is this: Training does not happen without motivation. You need to motivate your dog if you want her to perform. I also stress the fact that there are two forms of motivation: Positive and Negative. Both forms of motivation can produce results.

For a long time, dog trainers would not use food or other forms of positive motivation because they had

the silly notion that a dog is supposed to work for its master, PERIOD.

So dog trainers of the past would put a choke chain on the dog and use negative motivation to get the dog to comply with the command. The pain motivated the dog. In order to escape the pain, the dog would comply. This was a very bad way to train.

Whenever a trainer uses negative motivation, he will get side effects. A killer whale trainer once said: If you put a shock collar on a killer whale, you will have a very short training session because there is a good chance that the whale will eat you when you get in the pool.

He went on to say that aggression is caused by negative training methods. I completely agree with him. You can't constantly expose your dog to negative training sessions and not expect it to produce negative side effects.

At this point, many dog owners think that if you use food to train, the dog will only work for food.

Using food is only one part of the training process. Once your dog starts to learn a command, you can start to use life rewards.

A life reward is anything that the dog likes or wants. Does your dog like to go for car rides? Before you open the door and let your dog in, give your dog a command - sit, down, stay, etc.

Compliance is what we want from our dogs when we are doing obedience. You get compliance by motivating your dog.

Here is the secret of compliance:

1. Ask
2. Motivate
3. Reward

Through repetition, your dog will start to learn the command.

Conclusion - In the movie "The Godfather," negative motivation was used to get compliance, something we don't want to do when we are training our dogs. Instead, we want to use positive motivation. By using positive motivation, we don't have to resort to aggressive training techniques that promote aggression in dogs.

#1 All Time Dangerous Breed

The #1 most dangerous breed are **media outlets** that deliberately breed fear, spreading myths and lies about dog breeds and canine behavior through irresponsible reporting and reinforcement of undeserved and negative breed stereotypes.

What You Can Do About It:

- Call up the paper, the TV station or email the website and complain about the biased dog story
- Ask for the Editor, Sales Manager and/or Program Director.
- Tell them you won't read, watch or visit.
- Tell them you won't patronize their advertisers until they stop their biased coverage.
- Tell them they have the opportunity to spread knowledge, not fear.
- Tell them "My Dog Votes!"

Show News

Gerianne writes: Rick finished his Herding Championship, making him a Dual Champion. He joins his Dual Champion father, Raymond DC UD, as father/son Duals!



Cheryl Dikeman writes: California Bound Round 2. I am proud to announce that Shively's Small Firey One (Keegan) earned enough points to hang onto a national top 5 agility spot for Toy Fox Terriers and will therefore be invited again this year to AKC's Agility Invitational in Long Beach, CA.

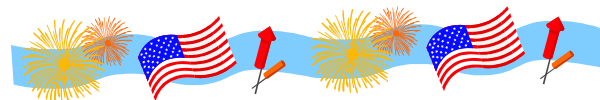
Labor Day Weekend CPE Trial Alberta

Friends of BDOC is taking advantage of a free Labor Day Weekend to hold a CPE trial. On Labor Day weekend there is usually a NADAC trial by NHS, this year they will hold their NADAC trial in October. This weekend is one week before our fall AKC trial and will be a great chance to run your dog in a trial setting before the AKC trial. This Labor Day weekend trial will not be an ongoing CPE weekend for Friends of BDOC, it is a one time event.

The trial will start on Friday, Sept 4th with first dog on line at 3 and continue Saturday and Sunday. You will still have Labor Day free to be with your family and friends. If you are not yet registered with CPE, please go to www.k9cpe.com for an application. For a premium, contact Rosemary Strasser at japchinrose@cox.com.

Our judge is Karl Johnson from Minnesota. He will be supervised by Pat Guticz from Lincoln. We know Pat makes the show FUN.

Food will be provided at the show but it would be nice if some of you would like to bring along some cookies or other treats. As usual, volunteers will be given vouchers for upcoming BDOC events or clothing. Contact Nora Boyd at Epona_3nmb@yahoo.com and let her know the times you can help. We really need someone to help Rose with the secretary duties. Eventually Rose may become a CPE judge and we will be looking for a new trial secretary when she judges our show. This is a great opportunity for someone.



Create a Great Day!

Fun Match

John Wilson

BDOC Fun Match with proceeds going to the trophy fund. The match will be held on Thursday, July 30th at Gerianne's. The match will include agility, rally and obedience. Agility will be starting at 5:00 p.m. and going until dusk. Rally and obedience will start at 6:00 PM and go to 9:00. Entry fees will be \$6.00 with proceeds going to the trophy fund.

GOAG Agility Fun Matches at the NHS meadow. The matches will be on August 28th and September 18th. Fee is \$6.00 for the first and 2nd run or \$15.00 for as many runs as you wish. Matches start at 5:00 and go until dusk.

How To Remove Ticks From Pets

Ticks thrive in woody, grassy and brushy areas and carry diseases such as Rocky Mountain spotted fever and Lyme disease. That's why it's essential to keep them off your pet. Here are a few steps to ensure your pet is tick free.

Instructions

Step One: Check your pet for ticks daily if he spends a lot of time outdoors, especially if you live in an area known for ticks.

Step Two: Put on latex gloves to avoid direct contact with the tick and contaminated skin, as diseases can be transmitted from tick to pet to human.

Step Three: Feel your pet all over, especially around the neck, head and ears. If you encounter a lump like a small pea, move the fur on your pet to see if you have found a tick.

Step Four: Look to see if a tick is protruding from the skin. Ticks are tiny black, brown, reddish or tan disklike arachnids (having eight legs), about the size of the head of a pin. If they have attached themselves to their host (your pet), then they can swell up to the size of a grape in some cases.

Step Five: Put your pet in a comfortable position. Ask a friend or family member for help in distracting your pet.

Step Six: Grasp the tick with tweezers as close to your pet's skin as possible; make sure not to pinch your pet's skin.

Step Seven: Pull the tick out using a straight, steady pulling motion. Be gentle; pulling too hard on the tick can cause its head to remain lodged in your pet's skin, which can lead to inflammation and secondary infection.

Step Eight: Dispose of the tick by throwing it into a fire, or by squishing it in a tissue using the tweezers and then flushing it down the toilet. Do not smash it with your foot or your bare hands.

Step Nine: Apply antiseptic ointment to the bite.

Step Ten: Remove and wash the gloves, and wash your hands thoroughly.

Step Eleven: Clean the tweezers with hot water or isopropyl alcohol or by holding them over a flame.

CPE Trial

Alberta Gray

Great news, we have heard from CPE our trial application for the Labor Weekend Trial has been approved. The trial will be Sept 4,5 6. Nora will be looking for volunteers so let her know when you can work. The Friday trial will have first dog on line at 3.

We do not plan to make this Labor Day weekend an ongoing event. This weekend opened up for our trial as the Go Dogs USDAA trial has moved to another weekend.

BDOC Board Meeting May 28, 2009

Location: Summer Kitchen, Bellevue, NE

The meeting was called to order on Thursday, May 28 at 6:38 p.m. by President Michelle Foutch at the Summer Kitchen in Bellevue, NE. Kathy Novak, Nora Boyd, Deb Landon, John Wilson, Erin Embry, and Marlene Lee were present. Deb Frady was absent.

Marlene moved to accept minutes from previous general meeting as printed in the BDOC newsletter, seconded by Erin.

Nora read the minutes which were moved to approve by John W. and seconded by Kathy.

No new members.

Reports:

1. Report of the **Treasurer** by Kathy Novak.
 - a. Club Jade - need to discuss rent with Deb Frady.
 - b. Discussed purchasing easels for CPE trials.
 - c. Still have some members pay dues, or be removed from roster.
 - d. GOAC still owes BDOC \$1000 for fence at NHS.
2. Report of the **Training Director** by Michelle on behalf of Deb Frady
 - a. Classes are running on Mon. & Tues. night
 - b. Deb L. had a question about instructor/dog number ratios and whether or not there was a guideline for this. John will put this into consideration in the revised bylaws.
 - c. Vouchers for teaching and assisting was discussed. John will also consider creating concrete requirements for earning them in the revised bylaws.
3. Report of the **CPE Trial** by Michelle on behalf of Alberta Gray
 - a. Nora has volunteers, but needs to write the schedule and could use a few more.
 - b. Bring prizes on Fri. morning for NQ raffle. Need someone to help out with it since Dee may not be able to make it.
 - c. Entries have closed, so no numbers are currently available. It seems they are smaller than last year, but there are "day-of" entries.
 - d. Darwin is in charge of the food during the trial. Will sell lunch to non-volunteers for \$6.
4. Report of the **UKC Trial** by Kathy
 - a. Need timers for Rally. Erin and Michelle will bring stopwatches.
 - b. Gerianne says she has 4 volunteers, which should be enough.

Old Business:

1. Welcome packet to new members report by Nora - This will be given to members at their induction meeting. Some of the information that would be included in this packet would be:

- a copy of the by laws
- list of current officers
- welcome letter about the club and website
- an explanation of how to get into the "members only" part of the website
- invitation to the next general meeting
- indicate whether they want e-mail notices of "Lead and Collar," and other notices
- a list of upcoming classes and events
- how to volunteer for events and training classes
 - a. Nora sent around a rough draft of the Welcome packet for the board to review.

2. Adding new members to BDOC Yahoo! Group list

- a. Nora will go through the Roster and make sure that all members are added.
- b. Michelle will send a message from the list to try to send private replies to the individual it is intended, not the entire group.

New Business

1. Annual Picnic in June - Erin

Date: 6/28/09 3-8 p.m. Shelter #2 at Haworth Park

What to bring: it will be divided by last name:

A-D: Salads and Breads

E-M: Veggies & Sides

N-R: Main dishes

S-Z: Desserts

BDOC will furnish drinks and table service.

Bring donations for the Obed. trial

Leashed dogs are welcome.

2. BDOC donated a t-shirt for the CPE Nationals Workers Raffle

3. Bylaws - John discussed using e-mail more as a way of contact. Items to be changed include:

- a. Fees need to be "updated by the board at the first meeting of the year after the election."

- b. Membership requirement currently includes having taken an obedience class. John discussed changing this to a class from any performance venue.

- c. Change the bounced check fee.

- d. Amount treasurer can write w/out authorization increased.

- e. Members should look over by-laws for further concerns.

Braggs

John - Porter got 3 MXH legs, MX leg, and new puppy Indy.

The next board meeting will be held July 24, 6:30 at the Summer Kitchen in Bellevue, NE.

John moved to adjourn the meeting, Deb L. seconded the motion, the meeting was adjourned at 8:24 p.m.

LISTERINE in a spray bottle sprayed on and around the dog keeps mosquitos away! As a benefit, it's also supposed to be good for the coat.

BDOC GENERAL MEETING/ANNUAL PICNIC JUNE 28, 2009

The meeting was called to order at 4:45 p.m. by president, Michelle Fouch at Hayworth Park in Bellevue. There were 15 members attending, including 1 new member.

The reading of minutes from the last general meeting and the last board meeting were waived. John made a motion to waive the reading of the minutes, Bert 2nd and the minutes were accepted.

Trish Burbach was unanimously approved by the members present as a new member and welcomed to the club.

Reports:

1. Deb Frady was absent. Caroline Rice was present and said that currently two classes are in session. The next classes begin on July 21 - 22. Bridgett will be teaching the Beginning Obedience on Tuesday nights. There are no applications for Puppy Class. Connie will be teaching the Rally Obedience on Wednesday nights. Carolyn will make flyers for the Rally and Puppy classes and distribute.

2. Kathy gave the report of the Treasurer.

3. Gerianne reported the UKC Trial from June 5-7. The Rally and Obedience trials both made a profit. Guidelines for Judges meals were discussed.

4. Bert reported the CPE Trial results from June 5-7. Keeping the CPE and UKC trials the same weekend or separating them was discussed. There might be a CPE Trial on September 4-6.

5. Gerianne reported on the September Agility Trial. Rhonda Crane will be the judge. There may be a conflict with another trial the same weekend. Dawn is retiring as secretary, so will need someone to take over. Cheryl is the Chief Ring Steward, so be sure to let her know if you can help.

6. Michelle reported on the AKC Obedience trial to be held October 23-25. Linda presented a letter for Trophy fund donations. Erin will be in charge of the Silent Auction.
7. There will be a Fun Match July 30 at Gerianne's. John will organize the Agility part to take place from 5 p.m.-8 p.m. Dee will organize the Obedience part to take place from 6 p.m.-9 p.m. For one dog, the first run will be \$6, second run will be \$4. Dee will talk to the girls at Vatterott College to do nails. Gerianne needs volunteers to set up the Rally course. There will be Water, tea and assorted soda to drink.
8. John reported for the By-Laws/Standing Rules Committee. The last update to the document was 2002. Recommendations were made to 1) Reference email, 2) remove specific dollar amounts and 3) revise the Treasurer specifics. The committee will meet to check on further revisions and present for discussion at the next board meeting.

Old Business

1. Dee presented options for ordering caps with BDOC logo on the front. She will check on the logos.

New Business

1. The next Board Meeting will be held July 24, 2009 at 6:30 p.m. at the Summer Kitchen in Bellevue.
2. The next General Meeting will be held August 19, 2009 6:30 p.m. at Valentino's Restaurant at 108th and M.

Braggs

1. Gerianne: At the UKC trial Rick got 2 High In Trials and High cumulative score for the three days. Ray got his CDX and Rally Novice titles. The next week Rick got his Herding Championship. Ray got 2 Duck Legs.
2. John: Porter qualified in 12 of 13 runs in the CPE trial.
3. Bert: Darby got titles in CPE. Bungee went to the OK Nationals to get his last leg but NQ'd.
4. Linda: Icy finished CPE Level 1. Stormy got his Rally novice title.
5. Trish: Qualified in 8 of 11 runs in the CPE trial.
6. Michelle: Gizmo qualified in CPE Level 2. Andy got 1 leg in AKC Rally.

Dave made a motion to adjourn the meeting. John 2nd and the meeting was adjourned at 6:15 p.m.

Carol Wilson Honored

(submitted by Alberta Gray)

The Carol M. Wilson Endowed Chair in Nursing has been established at the University of Nebraska Medical Center College of Nursing through the University of Nebraska Foundation.

Carol was the longtime director of nursing at the former University Hospital, now part of the Nebraska Medical Center. She served nearly 40 years in the role then later in her career as assistant director for health services administration. She retired in 1992. and passed away in 2007 at the age of 82.

She was a volunteer for the University of Nebraska Medical Center College of Nursing.

The endowment is one of six endowed chairs and professorships at the college.

"The chair will focus on her passion -- improving health systems -- and enable the college to add a first-rate nursing scholar to the faculty," said Virginia Tilden, dean of the UNMC College of Nursing.

Carol was a valued member of BDOC for many years and served as president of our club as well as holding other positions supporting dog obedience.

~ If a dog tolerates gentle handling between its toes, it probably is suited for children.

Will Beg For Food

By Cesar Millan

Begging is one of the most common issues that dog owners face. An unfortunate side effect of loving our dogs so much is that we would like to give them everything that they want. So when they start begging, it's almost too much for us to bear... and we cave! With a little willpower on your part, though, begging can be one of the easiest behaviors to correct. Follow these simple tips to turn your hairy panhandler into a productive member of society once more!

1. **DO NOT GIVE FOOD.** This tip may seem like common sense, but you'd be surprised how few people consider it when they're looking into the wide, wet eyes of their beloved canine companion. That high-pitched whine is an effective tool against you, and your dog knows it. Why? Because it's worked before! Giving food is a form of affection, and giving affection reinforces the behavior preceding it. Your dog has learned that if he begs, he gets food! Take a stand and start a new trend. Find the willpower to withhold that food, and your

dog will learn that he can't expect rewards for begging behavior.

2. **IGNORE.** Begging is an attention-seeking behavior. Rather than give in to your dog's demands, ignore the behavior and teach your dog that it does not get results! When you talk to your dog, give him affection, or engage in direct eye contact, you are feeding his mental state. Instead, practice no touch, no talk, no eye contact.
3. **DON'T FEEL SORRY FOR YOUR DOG.** Your dog is well-fed. You should know; you feed him! He is not in danger of going hungry if you don't give him that scrap off the table, so don't feel sorry for him when he flashes you those doughy eyes and places a single paw forlornly on your leg. If you become concerned about how much your dog should be fed, talk to your veterinarian. This can help ease your concerns and allow you to remain calm and assertive!
4. **BE CONSISTENT.** In any kind of training, consistency is the key to success. For your dog to learn that his begging behavior is ineffective, it has to be ineffective 100% of the time. Inconsistent enforcement of the rules leads to an inconsistently obedient dog! Make sure that every pack leader in the household understands and enforces the same rules.
5. **BE PATIENT.** Few dogs change overnight. If you have followed these tips to the letter and your dog continues to beg, don't despair! See Tip #4. Stay consistent and don't give up. Your reward will be a better behaved dog!

Palladia **New Anti-Cancer Drug for Dogs** Wednesday June 3, 2009

The Food & Drug Administration (FDA) announced it has approved the first canine cancer therapy in the US. The drug is called Palladia™ (toceranib phosphate) and it is used for treatment of (MCT) in dogs.

"In the weeks and months ahead, Pfizer will introduce Palladia to boarded specialists to expand the body of clinical experience with this new therapy. The experience gained during this time will enable us to support veterinarians more effectively when we make the product available for purchase in early 2010," said George Fennell, vice president, Companion Animal Division, Pfizer Animal Health. [Full article](#)

Mast cells are produced in the bone marrow and found in connective tissues. They are part of the immune system and release histamine in response to parasites, allergens or trauma. (For example, squeezing this type of tumor can cause it to enlarge in size.) Mast cell tumors are a common *skin tumor* in dogs and cats, but can be found anywhere in the body. Clinical appearance can vary greatly: raised, hairless, soft, firm, ulcerated, etc., so a fine needle aspirate or biopsy is required for positive diagnosis. A tissue biopsy is needed to stage (grade) the tumor.

Because of the unpredictable nature of this tumor, malignancy is usually assumed until proven otherwise. Wide margins must be obtained when removing these tumors. Lymph nodes and spleen should also be evaluated. MCTs are classified as Grade I, II or III. Grade III is the most severe. Between 7 and 21% of all canine skin tumors are mast cell tumors.¹

According to the [Morris Animal Foundation](#), 1 in 4 dogs die of cancer. News of this new treatment is encouraging for this common and potentially serious form of cancer. Hopefully this will open the doors for additional anti-cancer therapies in the near future.