

LEAD AND COLLAR



February/March 2024

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Bellevue Dog Obedience Club General Meeting Minutes, December 2, 2023 Gerianne Darnell, acting secretary

The December 2nd general meeting was called to

order at 7:18 p.m. Ten members and guests were in attendance. Erin motioned and Linda seconded to waive the reading of the last board and general meeting minutes, as they were published in the newsletter and also on the io List, and all approved. The treasurer's report was given by Joanne, Caroline motioned and Linda seconded to accept the report, and all approved. We have a \$5682.84 profit for the year. Because we order many thousands of dollars in ribbons in January for the various events, it takes most of the year to then show a profit for the year. Erin said she had receipts for toys for the obedience and herding trials that she purchased from Menards on Black Friday, along with the receipt for the pizza for the

party. A discussion was held regarding what positions are still needed for the various events next year. If club members don't step up, Erin and Gerianne will be stuck chairing and finding volunteers (again). Linda reported on the nomination committee. Ron and Kris will be running for the board. The next club meeting will be the Annual Awards Banquet on March 2, 2024, Caroline is looking in to different locations for the banquet. The next board meeting is February 5th via Zoom. Caroline moved and Kim seconded to adjourn the meeting, and all approved. The meeting was adjourned at 7:47 p.m. The gift exchange was enjoyed by all.

Displaceable High Jump – Obedience and Rally



AKC Companion Events
Department

Jan 20

News & Updates

The Board VOTED to modify the Obedience Regulations Chapter 1, Section 34 and the Rally Regulations Chapter 1, Section 36 to change the design and construction of the high jump to allow displaceable panels. In order to not cause an undue burden on event giving clubs, this transition must be completed by July 1, 2025. Clubs may use a high jump with displaceable panels before then, if they should choose to do so.

COMPANION and PERFORMANCE

Doug Ljungren, Executive Vice President, Sports & Events and Carrie DeYoung, Director of Agility participated in this portion of the meeting via video conference.

Agility Updates January 2024

The Board reviewed several recommended changes to the Agility Regulations that are meant to expand opportunities for exhibitors, make an event run more efficiently, and update technical equipment requirements for safety and to reflect current course designs.

- The recommendations cover the following topics:
- Allow For Exhibition Only (FEO) in all classes.
- Reduce wheeling of Open courses to one time.
- Increase the course yardage allowed for 8- & 12-inch heights (and corresponding Preferred heights) for the Excellent and Master levels.
- No longer require the Pause Table in the Excellent and Master Standard classes.
- No longer require a "Bar" jump in any courses.
- Only allow one time use of the tire obstacle in a course.
- Allow the use of a Wall Jump in Excellent and Master classes to add obstacle variety.
- Increase course yardage allowed in Jumpers with Weaves at the Excellent and Master levels for all heights (and corresponding Preferred heights).

This will be discussed further at the April meeting.

Rainbow Bridge: Setting the Record Straight

Most anyone who has loved and lost a dog has most certainly heard of the poem, Rainbow Bridge, a tribute to pets that have passed. The poem has touched the lives of millions of pet lovers around the world.

Most often, it has been shared, posted or inscribed with "Author Unknown" attached to it. Paul Koudounaris, an art historian and a founding member

of The Order of the Good Death, was on a mission to find the poem's true author.

Through his research, Koudounaris found records of 15 separate claims filed under the title "Rainbow Bridge" with the United States Copyright Office, dating as far back as 1995. He compiled a list of 25 names he found that had any connection to the poem. Then, he found the name Edna Clyne from Scotland, in an online chat group. A little Googling led him to the name Edna Clyne-Rekhy, whose authorship of a book about her late husband and their dog made him jot her name onto the list — the only woman and the only non-American.

"What initially would have seemed like the most unlikely candidate in the end turned out to be the most intriguing candidate and, of course, the actual author," said Koudounaris. When Koudounaris contacted 82-year-old Ms. Clyne-Rekhy, she had no idea that the poem she had written more than 60 years ago to honor her childhood dog had brought comfort to so many people.

Major, a Labrador Retriever, was Edna's first dog. "Major was a very special dog," said Edna. "Sometimes I would just sit and talk to him, and I felt that he could understand every word I said." Her mother used to ask how Edna had trained Major to be so gentle and obedient, and she still laughs about the question, explaining that she had never trained him at all, it was natural between them.

Major died in 1959, when Edna was 19 years old. The day after he passed, Edna found a notebook and pulled a piece of paper from it. As she began writing, she felt as if Major was guiding her pen.

"Just this side of heaven is a place called Rainbow Bridge," the poem begins. When she was finished, she wrote "Rainbow Bridge" at the top of the piece of paper, then showed it to her mother, who responded, "My darling girl, you are very special." Afterwards, she put the piece of paper away and didn't show it to anyone else for a long time.

Years later, she showed the poem to her husband, Jack Rekhy, who suggested she publish it. But Edna didn't want to, telling him it was something private between herself and Major.

Eventually, Edna typed up a few copies and handed them out to close friends - but she did not add her name on those copies. As more and more people shared the poem, it became cut off from its source.

By the early 1990s it had crossed the Atlantic. In February 1994, a woman from Grand Rapids, Michigan, sent a copy of Rainbow Bridge that they

had received from their local humane society to the advice column Dear Abby. It was published with a comment from Abigail Van Buren (Dear Abby), "I'm sure that many readers will be as moved as I when they read it. I confess, I shed a tear or two. Regrettably, you did not include the name of the author. If anyone in my reading audience can verify authorship, please let me know." The letter provoked an overwhelming response with mailbags full of letters from pet owners who had been touched by the poem.

When Koudounaris reached Edna, she was surprised he found her, and the reason why. She told him everything, including that the original poem sat in a box in her attic marked, "If you can't find it, it's in here."

Edna confessed to Koudounaris that when she took the poem out of the box to take photos of it for him that she began to cry. The memory of Major in the poem still carries that much emotional power for Edna.

"More than anything though, she is simply flattered that something she wrote so long ago has resonated with such a vast number of people—the fact that it has comforted so many is the greatest possible homage to her love for Major," Koudounaris said. "She knew nothing about the inscribed tablets in pet cemeteries.

She had also never heard the abbreviation ATB. I had to explain that it meant 'At The Bridge', and that there are entire mourning groups based around those three letters, which signify the pets waiting to meet their owners at a place she invented for Major."

"As a concept, what nineteen-year-old Edna envisioned is a kind of limbo where deceased pets are returned to their most hale form and cavort in newfound youth in an Elysian setting," wrote Koudounaris. "But it is not paradise itself. Rather, it is a kind of way station where the spirit of an animal waits for the arrival of its earthly human companion, so that they may cross the Bridge together, to achieve true and eternal paradise in each other's company, and to thereafter never again be parted."

Koudounaris asked one question of Edna that took her aback during their discussions. What advice could she share for someone suffering from the loss of a pet?

"Her response was then immediate – get another pet," wrote Koudounaris. "She said that the relationship with a new pet will never be the same as the relationship with the old one, but it can be equally special and loving in different ways."

History of Dogs in Mythology and Folklore

(from Team K9)

Dogs in Ancient Egypt: Guardians of the Afterlife

In ancient Egypt, dogs were not just pets; they were sacred. The god Anubis, with his canine head, is a testament to their revered status. As guardians of the afterlife, these dogs symbolize loyalty and protection, traits we admire and seek in our pets today.

Cerberus: The Three-Headed Hound

The Greek myth of Cerberus isn't just about fear; it's about loyalty and protection, guarding the gates of the underworld. This powerful imagery reflects the protective nature of our canine companions.

Norse Mythology: Strength and Companionship

In Norse legends, dogs are not just pets; they are warriors, companions of gods, embodying strength and courage. This mirrors our dogs' roles as fearless protectors and loyal friends.

Dogs in Eastern Traditions: Symbols of Fortune

Eastern cultures often see dogs as bearers of good luck and happiness. They are celebrated for bringing positivity and joy into our lives, much like our furry friends today.

Folklore's Loyal Canines: Real-life Heroes

The stories of Hachiko and Greyfriars Bobby aren't just heartwarming; they're powerful examples of dogs' unwavering loyalty. Hachiko's daily wait at the train station and Bobby's vigil at his owner's grave teach us about devotion and the deep emotional connections dogs form. While we can't all have legendary tales, every moment with our dogs is special.

Winter Snow Tips

1. Use petroleum jelly/balm or dog boots to protect paws from cracking.
2. Stay warm outdoors with sweaters/coats and dry dogs promptly when they come inside.
3. Only use pet safe ice melt in pet areas (kitty litter is a cost effective alternative).
4. Know your pet's limit outdoors, certain breeds are not cold tolerant. Consult your vet for advice.
5. Use space heaters cautiously around pets. They can burn skin and be knocked over.
6. Stock up on preferred pet food before storms.



AKC Obedience/Rally Trials



Bellevue Dog Obedience Club (BDOC) is offering three AKC Obedience & Rally trials on March 29th-31st, 2024. This event will be held at Sunshine Obedience School, 11092 240th Street, Council Bluffs, IA.

We are offering reduced rates for Junior exhibitors.

Entries open on Wednesday, January 31st, 2024.

You can find the premium and entry form on the [BDOC](#) website listed under Trials or you can do a search on the AKC website.

For a Calmer Dog

(Team K9 Tips)

1. Cultivate a Serene Sanctuary

The ambiance of your meditation or yoga space significantly influences your ability to relax and connect with your dog. Start by selecting a quiet, clutter-free area in your home. Soft, ambient lighting can make the space inviting and cozy for your pet. The presence of familiar and comforting items, like their favorite toy or blanket, can help ease your dog into this new routine, making them feel secure and loved. This nurturing environment is not only vital for their comfort but also for

keeping their focus away from distractions, ensuring a more profound and connected experience for both of you.

2. Harmonize with Gentle Touch

Touch is a powerful tool in deepening the bond with your dog during meditation and yoga. Integrating gentle pets and massages into your practice can soothe and reassure your pet, fostering a deeper sense of trust and security. This tactile communication reassures your dog that they are in a safe space, allowing them to relax fully. It's important to be mindful of your dog's reactions and to proceed with gentleness, especially if your pet is not used to prolonged physical contact or if they are in their senior years. Remember, the goal is to create a mutually beneficial experience, enhancing the emotional connection without causing any discomfort.

3. Breathe and Reconnect

Your breathing patterns have a profound impact on your dog's emotional state. Dogs are incredibly sensitive to our breath and can pick up on subtle changes, making it a vital component of shared meditation and yoga sessions. Practice slow, deliberate breathing to induce a state of calmness that your dog can mirror. This shared breathing rhythm not only helps reduce anxiety and stress for both of you but also fosters a unique, non-verbal communication. Over time, this shared breathing can become a comforting ritual, signaling to your dog that this is a time for tranquility and closeness.

4. Embrace Their Individuality

Just like humans, each dog has a unique personality and comfort level, especially when it comes to new experiences like meditation and yoga. It's crucial to observe and respect your dog's boundaries. Some may prefer to lie down close to you, while others might choose to engage more actively, mimicking your poses or moving around the space. Respecting their individual preferences ensures the experience is positive and stress-free, encouraging a willing participation in future sessions.

Integrating these practices into your routine not only nurtures your bond with your furry companion but also promotes a lifestyle of mindfulness and well-being. Remember, these moments of shared peace are precious steps towards a harmonious and joyful life with your canine companion.

Evolution of Training

(Team K9)

Evolution of Dog Training Methods Through History. Understand how our ancestors' insights

have shaped today's dog training philosophies, deepening your connection with your beloved K9.

1. Echoes from Ancient Times

Our journey begins in the cradle of civilization, where dogs were not just pets but vital partners in survival. Ancient trainers recognized the importance of mutual respect and firm guidance, laying the groundwork for modern training techniques. For instance, Roman military dogs were trained with consistency and discipline, a principle that's still pivotal in today's training regimes.

2. The Middle Ages - A Dividing Line in Training

In medieval times, the roles of dogs diversified, demanding more specialized training methods. Knightly orders trained their hounds for combat and guarding, while hunters focused on scent and retrieval skills. This era teaches us the importance of catering training to a dog's role and natural strengths, a concept that's central to modern training strategies. It reminds us that understanding each dog's unique character and capabilities is crucial.

3. The Renaissance - A New Dawn for Dog Training

The Renaissance was a period of enlightenment not just for humans but for dog training as well. There was a shift from authoritarian methods to a more understanding and compassionate approach, acknowledging the psychological needs of dogs. This period saw the beginnings of reward-based training, a method scientifically proven to be more effective and humane.

4. The Modern Era - Technology and Tradition Intertwined

In today's world, the fusion of traditional wisdom and technological advancement has set a new standard in dog training. Tools like GPS trackers, mobile training apps, and advanced training equipment offer a synergy of convenience and effectiveness. This blend ensures modern dog owners are well-equipped to provide training that's not only effective but also adaptable to the evolving urban lifestyle, ensuring that our K9 companions are safe, well-behaved, and happy.

Did You Know?

Scientific studies have reinforced that dogs respond best to positive reinforcement, a technique that rewards desired behavior, making it more likely to occur in the future. This method, grounded in mutual respect and understanding, strengthens the bond between you and your dog, fostering a harmonious living environment. It's essential to integrate this knowledge into everyday interactions with your furry friend.

Decode Your Dog's Dreams

1. The Meaning Behind Twitches and Whimpers

It's a heartwarming yet curious sight to see our dogs twitching, paddling their feet, or even whimpering in their sleep. These actions often occur during the REM phase of sleep, where dogs are most likely dreaming. Studies suggest that, like humans, dogs replay daily experiences in their dreams. Those little twitches might represent a thrilling chase or a joyful playtime they had.

2. Understanding Dog Sleep Cycles

Dogs, unlike humans, have shorter sleep cycles of about 45 minutes and, as such, require multiple rest periods to achieve total restfulness. Their sleep is crucial for energy restoration, memory consolidation, and overall health. A comfortable, designated sleeping area can significantly improve their sleep quality.

3. The Crucial Role of a Sleep Routine

A consistent sleep routine isn't just beneficial for humans; it's essential for dogs too. A regular sleep/wake schedule helps regulate your dog's internal clock, leading to a more peaceful and uninterrupted sleep. This routine helps mitigate stress and anxiety, leading to a happier, more well-adjusted dog.

4. Recognizing and Addressing Sleep Disorders

Dogs, much like their human counterparts, can suffer from sleep disorders such as insomnia, sleep apnea, or even nightmares. Breeds with shorter noses, like Bulldogs or Pugs, are particularly prone to issues like sleep apnea. Signs of sleep disturbance include restlessness, frequent waking, or difficulty breathing during sleep. It's crucial to recognize these signs early and consult with a vet to ensure your dog's health and well-being.

Here's a fascinating fact: research indicates that dogs are likely to dream about their owners, meaning your pup's sweetest dreams could be filled with memories of you!

President's Day Facts

President's Day Wasn't Enacted Until Almost One Hundred Years After George Washington's Death.

President's Day Goes by Many Names. President's Day is Always Celebrated on Monday.

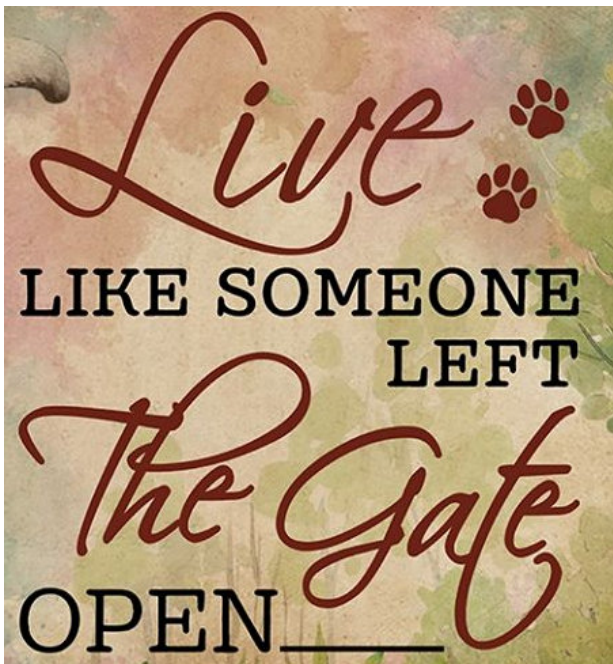
A Way to Honor the Birth, Life, and Legacy of the Nation's First President.

Spring Fact

March 19, 2024 is the first day of spring.

What is special about the first day of spring?

Equinoxes, when the sun lands equally on both hemispheres, mark the start of spring and autumn. Solstices, when the Earth sees its strongest tilt toward or away from the sun, kick off summer and winter.



♦ What is AKC Fetch?

Welcome to AKC Fetch! When dog owners are asked about activities they like to do with their dogs, the most common responses are to take their dog for a walk and to play ball (fetch) with the dog.

AKC Fetch titles were created as another activity in which owners could have fun with their dogs in the AKC Family Dog Program. Earning AKC Fetch titles provides opportunities for both physical and mental exercise. While some dogs are natural retrievers, AKC Fetch, especially at the advanced levels, will involve teaching new skills such as retrieving.

AKC Fetch is designed for all breeds.

AKC Fetch is a pass-fail noncompetitive test. The four levels of titles (Novice, Intermediate, Advanced, and Retriever) assess the ability of the dog to retrieve. In the Advanced and Retriever levels, the dog must respond correctly to signals. There is also a memory component in Advanced and Retriever because a retrieving bumper or ball is dropped (or thrown) behind a blind where it cannot be seen.

For each of the four titles, the dog must pass the test twice under two different approved AKC Fetch judges.

Dogs who are at least 6 months of age are eligible to take the AKC Fetch test as long as they are registered or enrolled with AKC and have an AKC, PAL, or AKC Canine Partners number.

Why Participate in AKC Fetch?

AKC Fetch provides a form of exercise for dogs and their owners. Dogs learn new skills and many handlers will learn to teach a skill (i.e., retrieving) they have not previously taught.

AKC Fetch titles are fun to earn and can be used as a required AKC title for earning the Gold level of AKC FIT DOG. For info on AKC FIT DOG, see: <https://www.akc.org/sports/akc-family-dog-program/akc-fit-dog/>

Fetch Title Structure Explained

AKC Fetch is a fun AKC Family Dog program in which dogs can earn four levels of AKC titles by demonstrating retrieving skills. Below is a breakdown of each title offered and a

quick overview of what a dog must do to earn a title at each of the four test levels. Be sure to check out the [fetch test level videos](#) as well. There is also a quick test level [summary chart](#).

A dog must pass each test level twice in order to be able to apply for a title. Below are the four test level titles offered.

[Novice](#) – the dog earns the FTN (Fetch Novice)

[Intermediate](#) – the dog earns the FTI (Fetch Intermediate)

[Advanced](#) – the dog earns the FTA (Fetch Advanced)

[Retriever](#) – the dog earns the FTR (Fetch Retriever)

February 2, 2024

The first Fetch title tests will begin.

Who Can Host a Fetch Test Event?

An AKC licensed or member club can host a fetch test or an AKC Fetch Judge.

AKC Fetch is an official AKC event. CGC Evaluators are eligible to become judges for AKC Fetch and host Fetch test events if they successfully complete the online training for AKC Fetch judges in Canine College.

