



THE NITA-NEE REPORTER

NEWSLETTER OF THE NITA-NEE KENNEL CLUB, INC.

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P.O. Box 5129, Pleasant Gap, PA 16823
www.nnkc.org

February 2007

Officers

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FEBRUARY/MARCH CLUB EVENTS

Tuesday, February 20, 6:30 pm	Board Meeting	Comfort Suites
Tuesday, February 20, 7:45 pm	Regular Meeting	Comfort Suites
Program: Rally 101 and Obedience 101		
Tuesday, March 20, 6:30 pm	Board Meeting	Comfort Suites
Tuesday, March 20, 7:45 pm	Regular Meeting	Comfort Suites
Program: Agility 101		

Programs: Our February program is “Rally 101 and Obedience 101” which will cover the sports of Rally and Obedience. Come on out to the meetings to find out all about these activities! Looking ahead to March we will have a program on “Agility 101”. Various other programs will be planned for future meetings. Stay tuned for more information!

The January meeting covered **Dog Shows 101**. Vicki briefly introduced the moderator, Carol Brown and the panel members Sharon Mayes, John Gerber, Allie Urbanski, and Renie Adrian. The moderator and panel members had a lively discussion about dog showing dos and don'ts, relating some of their experiences. Carol demonstrated how a dog is judged, going over Sharon's Collie, Stormy, while talking about what a judge is typically looking for. Among the topics discussed were the importance of knowing your breed standard, evaluating your dog against that standard, finding a mentor, how to enter a show, proper attire for handlers, appropriate lead for the dog, training your dog and preparing for a show, allowing enough time to arrive before ring time, and watching the judge prior to your breed to see how he or she works. Carol provided several handouts.

Nominations: President – Steve Brightbill, Vice President – Renie Adrian, Corresponding Secretary – Cheryl Sharer, Treasurer – Roberta Horner, Recording Secretary – Tracy Hoover, Board of Directors – Carol Brown and John Gerber. Nominations from the floor will be taken at the February general meeting and voting will be in March at the general meeting. Elected officers and board members begin serving in April.

Tidbits: The AWARDS Banquet will be held on April 17th. Please see the attached awards form and submit it by March 20th!

The Annual Breed and Obedience/Rally Match is scheduled for April 29, 2007 at the Grange Fairgrounds. Renie will be Chair again this year.

Send brags and member news to: Helen Smith; hfs1@psu.edu or 309 Ravendale Rd., PA Furnace, PA 16865

Member News: Cheryl Sharer reports that she has 2 additions to her "family" a 10 year old black lab named Lady and a 2 yr old Brussel Griffon named Sprout. They both came from the SPCA. Apparently Gracie and Noble are adjusting nicely since they "all sleep in a big pile in the laundry room." Congratulations Cheryl!

Memberships: Cheryl Scipione's application for membership has been approved. Welcome Cheryl!



Cheryl and "Sprout"

The following is a sample letter concerning the proposed amendments to the PA dog law from John Gerber to Scott Conklin, feel free to use this as an example for your own letters!:

Dear Mr. Conklin:

I am writing to comment on the proposed amendments to the Pennsylvania dog law regulations issued on December 16, 2006.

I am a resident of Centre County and like thousands of dog owners throughout PA, show dogs at local, regional and national shows. I own only a few dogs and at this time do not breed, raise puppies nor do I run a kennel. I am, however, ever vigilant against those who might abuse dogs in any form and despise puppy mills.

I believe that inhumane and substandard kennel conditions should not be tolerated, but I do not agree that most of the proposed regulatory changes are needed, nor would necessarily have a beneficial outcome if adopted. Many are impractical, excessively burdensome and costly, unenforceable, and/or will not improve the quality of life for the dogs in these kennels.

If I decide to breed a few litters, this legislature, would bar me from any breeding program without enormous and unnecessary financial burden. In short, a small breeder such as myself, who maintain their dogs in their own residential premises but are covered by the Pennsylvania dog law, who provide care and conditions far superior to those required by the proposed new standards, would be unable to comply with the rigid commercial kennel standards.

I am most definitely in favor of closing down puppy mills which represent the most egregious circumstances and we all know that such egregious circumstances already violate existing regulations.

The current proposal appears to be merely a laundry list of ideas for improving the environment for dogs that has no connection to specific instances in which the welfare of dogs could not be secured, and no basis in science or accepted canine husbandry practices. I urge that this proposal be withdrawn.

Please note that I associate myself with the more detailed comments on this proposal by the Pennsylvania Federation of Dog Clubs.

The Bureau has tacitly conceded that its current regulations have not been adequately enforced. If, after implementing its recently announced enhanced enforcement program, the Bureau finds it is still unable to prevent inhumane treatment of dogs because of specific deficiencies in the existing regulations, it should cite these specific deficiencies and propose changes based on them.

Sincerely yours,

John H. Gerber,
A Responsible Dog Owner