



# HOTLINE

Volume 41, Number 1

January 2004

## President's Report

I don't know about you, but I've only had one free weekend since labor day. With my increased commitment to tracking, this fall has been an endless session of training classes and events. So far we've introduced nine new dogs to the sport and continued the training of thirteen others. That doesn't even include any of Cindy McCullough, Nancy Ward or Betty Rich's dogs.

One of the things I really like about obedience and tracking is watching a dog learn. At first, they're enthralled with the game and loving the attention that they get while they train with you. Then they start offering all kinds of behavior trying to earn your praise and rewards. Then there's that moment when they figure it out and you can see things click in their head. They've got it, they understand and they know what to do. In obedience, they get in position and look confidently into your eyes waiting for that command. Their whole body posture seems to say, "Let's do it, mom. I'm ready!" In tracking, it's a little harder. The dog is working 20 feet away from you. You can communicate with them verbally, but much of the communication is done down that line that runs from your hand to the dog's harness. It requires a lot of training and patience to build the teamwork necessary to successfully negotiate a track, especially at the TDX and VST level. But when you see a true team, working together to problem solve and follow a difficult track, it's a joy to watch. I tell people all the time, I know by Austin's butt when he's on his track. His ears tell me when he's playing around or crittering, but when he's working, his butt is what I'm watching and taking my clues from.

Sorry, but this issue is tracking intensive. November, December and January are prime tracking months in our area, and tracking is one of my main loves. There's also been a renewed interest in tracking in our area lately. Some of that is due to the VCD titles and dogs needing a TD title to get their VCD1. But some of it is because of the nature of the sport. It's not nearly as stressful on a dog's body or temperament as obedience or agility is. They must be fit and conditioned to develop the concentration and stamina to run a 400 – 1,000 yard track in our heat and humidity, but only in extreme circumstances will you

Find terrain or cover that challenges a dog's joints or structure. It's a wonderful sport for both puppies as well as the older dog that has had to retire from the more physically demanding sports. Tracking is excellent for a shy dog. One on one training time with their owner as well as the problem solving skills they develop can really boost a dog's self-confidence. Also a dog that can't handle the close proximity of a stay line or the commotion of the starting gate in agility can relax and enjoy itself in the wide-open spaces of a tracking field.

*From the AKC Tracking Rules and Regulations...* The purpose of a tracking test is to demonstrate the dog's ability to recognize and follow human scent, a skill that is useful in the service of mankind. Tracking, by nature, is a vigorous, noncompetitive outdoor sport. Tracking tests demonstrate the willingness and enjoyment of the dog in its work, and should always represent the best in sportsmanship and camaraderie by the people involved.

*And here's my favorite part...* **Guidelines for Tracking Tests:** The tracking fraternity is known for its friendliness, hospitality, and encouragement of all participants.

Tracking is pass/fail. No one dog is singled out as being the best. The gallery celebrates each pass equally, and groans in unison when witnessing a heartbreaking fail. I've experienced both, just within the last month. I started tracking eight years ago this week. I've been fortunate to have some great trainers work with me and some wonderful friends and training partners lay countless tracks for my dogs. The camaraderie mentioned above is prevalent in our tracking community, just look at the names of those "friends of HOT" who have laid tracks at our recent tests. They did so because I asked, and I had so many offers of help that I actually had to turn some people down.

I'm thrilled that my application to become an AKC Tracking Judge has been accepted and I'll be completing my test and interview process this spring. In the meantime, come tracking with us. Experience true joy, meet some great people and watch the fun that your dog can have – just using its nose.

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# Volume 41, Number 1

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## HOUSTON OBEDIENCE TRAINING DOG CLUB

P. O. Box 1756  
Bellaire, Texas 77402-1756

Club Phone: 713.694.7446  
<http://www.hotdogclub.org>

### 2003 – 2004 BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

President: Kathleen Milford  
Vice President: Nancy Ward  
Treasurer: George Anna Bobo  
Secretary: Betty Rich  
Director: Mary Jane Rosenbaum

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The **HOTLINE**, the official newsletter of Houston Obedience Training Dog Club, is published monthly.

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Submit articles to the Editor in MS Word, .rtf or .pdf format on via email or on a 3.5" diskette or CD. Pictures or .jpps may accompany any article. Original material and media will be returned. Please send a SASE if you wish articles and photos returned. Please verify receipt of articles by phone. Articles and scores may be submitted via email to: [corqi@flash.net](mailto:corqi@flash.net)

**Deadline:** All articles, scores, etc. must be received by the **25<sup>th</sup>** of the month.

**Note:** All items are published at the Editors and Board of Director's discretion. Opinions expressed may not necessarily be the opinion of the Editor and/or Members of the Houston Obedience Training Dog Club.

**Reprinting Articles:** Articles may be used in Club newsletters but proper identification or origination **MUST** be made (i.e.: reprinted from the **HOTLINE**.)

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**Club meetings** are held on the first Tuesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. at the Harris County Spring Branch Community Center between I-10 and Long Point (and) Wirt and Bingle at 1721 Pech Road, Houston, TX. Park in the surrounding lots or across the street. Guests are always welcome.

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## UPCOMING TRIALS, TESTS AND SHOWS

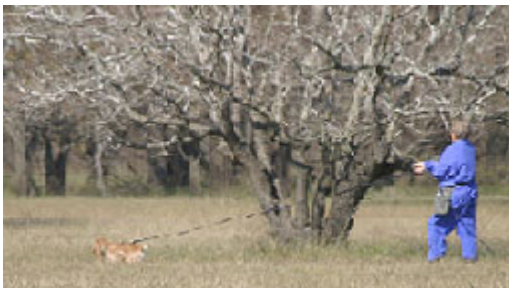
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DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	CONTACT	CLOSING
1/4	Southwest Tracking T/X Test	G Bush Park	Kathy Daniel (281) 491-7954	12/22
1/10-11	HUDC UKC Obedience Trial	Dogwood		
1/16-18	SE TX Am. Eskimo UKC All Breed Obed.	Hutto	Tamara Flores, (281) 633-2848 <a href="mailto:tamaraday@msn.com">tamaraday@msn.com</a>	
1/17-18	UKC Classic & All Breed Obed.	Hutto	Mark Threlfall (269) 343-9020 <a href="mailto:classic@ukcdogs.com">classic@ukcdogs.com</a>	

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Sorry, but I just didn't have the time to get our calendar updated this month. It will be current for you by next month's issue.



Nita Chambers and "Nash" got off to a great start at HOT's TDX Test



Sue Jackson's "Kodi" looking for an article at HOT's December TDX Test

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## SUNSHINE

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It's sad to relate former member, Roger Wright, passed quietly on New Year's Eve. He had been battling cancer for the past few years. Fortunate members will remember he and his wife, Kathy's first venture onto the lot with two rambunctious Rotties. Baron and Tasha developed very good manners thanks to their trainers. Roger and Kathy ended up becoming quite active HOT Doggers. Roger served both as treasurer, president and director of the club. He and Kathy instructed some members in rudimentary square dance moves, combing two hobbies. The HOT Dancin' Dogs performed at many venues: retirement homes, several Heights Festivals, Coldspring Christmas Festival. The dance team consisted of eight handlers and dogs and danced fairly challenging patterns through a four or five minute song. The dogs had to heel, stay, come when called, finish and even heel with new partners.

Roger became more and more active in square and round dancing, earning his badge as a certified caller. He spent the last few years still calling and dancing. His warmth, humour and charm will be greatly missed.

Please take a moment and give Kathy a call when you get the chance. She still lives at the big house that hosted a HOT Christmas party or two. That's why you kept the old membership lists. Donations can be sent to MD Anderson Cancer Center in memory of E. Roger Wright.

Another former member, Katie White, lost her mother during December.

**Mary Jane Rosenbaum** has been diagnosed and begun treatment for Lymphoma. She and Joseph greatly appreciate all the cheery notes and offers of assistance received from HOT members. In the meanwhile, **LaVern Muchow** has volunteered to take over our answering service. If you'd like to help out, let Kathleen know.

Here's some good news, **Ethelene Bucy** is feeling much better. She continues to fight Pancreatic Cancer, but her tumor has shrunk! Seems all that healthy eating and biomagnetic therapy is working.

Much to Jim and **Bridget Spence's** relief, "Gloria" and "Caesar" are feeling better. Gloria had a rough time right before Christmas as a result of her radiation treatments, but they both felt well enough to make a visit to tracking class, run a small track, and earn some well-deserved cookies.

From **Nancy Ward**: Well, it seems my dogs can't seem to get it together.

- Jewel had surgery.
- Twister had a laceration repair.
- Dancer of course had major ligament replacement surgery; along with major complications (still whirlpooling her leg daily and have now added walking at least 2-3X daily for 15 minutes)-Brenda has been helping me out by walking Dance around while I am in puppy class with Pixel.
- Cashmere had surgery on her neck and now has some infection complications (I now have to irrigate her neck by inserting one of the curved syringes into the wounds and flushing it out with betadyne at least twice daily-what an ick mess - one syringe full in each of the five wounds).
- I had to put Chelsea to sleep (see more below).
- Kenyon has injured a disc in her back --went to College Station for a complete series of spinal films--treatment-complete confinement and Rimadyl for a minimum of a month, with possible chiropractor and acupuncture care. No running or jumping-walking on a leash only (Kenyon is rambunctious just walking down the hall !)
- Kaehre and Splash feel the need to jump the fences, causing major renovations to the dog runs.

I'm going insane-not to mention going to the poor house! Good news though, Riddle, Sassie, Bearely, Dev and Pixel aren't having any problems. Dev received an Award of Merit at the AKC classic.



It is with great sadness and heavy heart I inform you of the passing of U-CD Nancy's Lady Chelsea CD\* TD\* CGC, always known as Chelsea, but sometimes known also as HeHe or HeHo. Although (for my own selfish reasons)

I wanted her to make it to her 18<sup>th</sup> birthday, her quality of life had diminished greatly over the past couple of months, and with a seizure occurring only two nights ago, I made the hard decision to give her peace.

Chelsea was not my first dog, but was indeed the first I truly competed with. She will always have a very special place in my heart, and will be missed forever.

### RARE BREEDS TO COMPETE IN COMPANION EVENTS

The American Kennel Club announced that 18 Foundation Stock Service (FSS) breeds meeting certain criteria are eligible to compete in AKC all-breed Companion Events including Obedience, Agility and Tracking, effective January 1, 2004. Inclusion in Performance events will be considered on a case-by-case basis after written requests from individual breed Parent clubs are made to the AKC.

FSS is a service provided by the AKC to allow these purebred breeds to continue to develop while allowing them the security of a reliable and reputable avenue to maintain their records. This record keeping service allows rare breed fanciers to ensure the integrity of their pedigrees and ownership records, and ultimately, become fully recognized by the AKC. Currently, 48 unique purebreds are included in FSS.

“AKC Companion Events are among the most popular of the AKC sports for registered purebred dogs. They offer a unique bonding experience between owner and dog,” said Patricia Krause, AVP of Companion Events. “We are pleased to welcome these dogs into competition as they bring diversity to the sport and enable the public the chance to become educated about lesser-known breeds.”

In order to be eligible for competition in Companion Events, the FSS breed must meet the following minimum requirements as set by the AKC Board of Directors: a minimum of 150 dogs with three generation pedigrees recorded in FSS; a national breed club with members in at least 20 states; and a breed standard that meets AKC criteria.

The 18 breeds currently eligible are:

- (FSS) Black and Tan Coonhound
- American English Coonhound
- Bluetick Coonhound
- Cesky Terrier
- Chinook
- Coton de Tulear
- Dogue de Bordeaux
- Finnish Lapphund
- Irish Red and White Setter
- Norwegian Buhund
- Norwegian Lundehund
- Perro de Presa Canario
- Peruvian Inca Orchid
- Pyrenean Shepherd
- Sloughi
- Swedish Vallhund
- Tibetan Mastiff
- Treeing Walker Coonhound

In addition, the Cesky Terrier was approved for competition in Earthdog Tests. The breed was developed in Czechoslovakia to hunt small vermin and to go to ground.

Visit the [Foundation Stock Service section](#) of the AKC's website for more information.

### PERSONNEL CHANGES ANNOUNCED

Robin Stansell has been promoted to Assistant Vice President, Event Operations. Stansell has been involved in the world of purebred dogs for over 25 years. He owned and showed Bulldogs and French Bulldogs, and has held every club position within specialty and all-breed clubs including National Specialty Show Chair. Prior to his employment with AKC, Stansell was an AKC-licensed judge of the Non-Sporting Group, Toy Poodles and Junior Showmanship. Stansell began at AKC as an Executive Field Representative and was promoted to Director of Conformation Rules and Policy, followed by a promotion to Director of Event Operations. He resides in Raleigh, NC.

### NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP EXPANDS ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

The American Kennel Club and The Iams Company are pleased to extend special recognition to the breeders of AKC registered dogs.

The AKC/Eukanuba National Championship has truly become a breeder's showcase for AKC registered purebred dogs. To further recognize these devoted individuals who are the heart and soul of the sport, the eligibility criteria for entry has been enhanced to include Champions that have earned all of their points from the Bred-By-Exhibitor Class.

**All dogs completing their championships during the October 8, 2003 to October 5, 2004 qualification period, with all championship points earned from the Bred-By-Exhibitor Class will be extended an invitation to enter the January 15, 2005 AKC/Eukanuba National Championship Show in Tampa, Florida.**

“While over 20,000 dogs complete their AKC championships each year, less than 4,000 earn their titles by obtaining all of their points in the Bred-By-Exhibitor Class,” said Show Chairman, Ron Menaker. “There is nothing to compare with the justifiable pride shown by breeders in the ring with the dogs that are the product of all their hard work, perseverance, and dreams. It is our privilege to be able to give them the recognition they so richly deserve.”

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## AKC NEWS - continued

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As dogs qualify, they will receive the prestigious American Kennel Club Bred-by-Exhibitor medallion and can look forward to an invitation to enter the show. Thanks to the support of The Iams Company, all Bred-By Exhibitor class award winners, as well as the Bred-By-Exhibitor Variety Group winners, placements and the winner of the Best Bred-By-Exhibitor in Show competition will receive significant cash prizes.

### AKC EVENTS ON TV

Saturday, 1/31/2004 "The Road to the National Championship" 7-8 p.m. ET/PT Animal Planet

**AKC/Eukanuba National Championship** 8 p.m. and 11 p.m. ET/PT 3-hour showing on both Animal Planet & Discovery Channel (simulcast)

### Animal Planet repeats:

Sunday, 2/1/2004, at noon ET/PT

Wednesday, 2/4/2004, at 8 p.m. and 11 p.m. ET/PT

Saturday, 2/7/2004, at 9 a.m. ET/PT

### AKC National Agility Championship (Animal Planet)

Sunday, 2/8/2004, at 8 p.m. and 11 p.m. ET/PT

Friday, 2/13/2004, at 9 p.m. and midnight ET/PT

Sunday, 2/15/2004, at 3 p.m. ET/PT

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## BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

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1/4	"Zubie" Bergeron
1/9	"Hannah" Patterson
1/12	"Brooke" Leiser
1/15	"Fling" Pilkerton
1/19	"Zeke" Short
1/20	<b>Pat Busbee</b>
1/23	<b>Tommye Parker</b>
1/30	"Chelsea" Hebert
1/31	"Poppy" Williams
2/1	"Riley" Campbell & "Willie" Richmond
2/4	"Madison" Parker & "Goliath" Morgan
2/6	"Bridget" Bradley & "Titus" Joe

*If you don't see your information in this monthly listing, be sure to let Kathleen know. The calendar of birthdays and anniversaries was one of the things stolen from her car in August and we're still trying to recreate all our listings.*

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## CELEBRITY DOG SCHOOL

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I feel I have to share with you all a program that aired this fall. Yes, called Celebrity Dog School. It ran for four weeks of training, then one night of competition with a final view during a children's charity telethon – Children in Need.

Obviously must viewing. This show matched seven celebs with seven different dog trainers. The use of the word celebrity is marginal; I'd be surprised if you had heard of more than one of the dog owners. A cross section of average white Brits was represented. The telegenic twenty something gal with her Lab pup. The thirty something comic and his Bulldog. The rather veteran soap opera regular and her Tibetan Terrier. The talking head and his Lab. The familiar comic and his two Miniature Schnauzers. The "Survivor" winner and her long haired Daschund. The gay guy and his Lab mix.

Several trainers from the London area were asked to be the trainers for this show; they all turned it down. The trainers were supposed to provide a cross section of training styles – clicker & positive reinforcement, positive reinforcement, traditional military training, pop & jerk and so forth.

The pairings made for the watch-ability of this program. The soap diva was paired with the Italian dog trainer, Giovanni. After four weeks, the diva seemed quite interested in continuing her relationship with her trainer. The clicker lady worked with the survivor. The military trainer and the gay comic, "Have you ever thought of adding a splash of red to your uniform?"

I'm told hundreds of hours of tape were shot for this half hour show. Of course, it's much more enjoyable to watch the owner say, "Come" and see the little dog run the other way.

What was amazing was the type of exercises that were expected in a month's time. You might guess some – walk on a loose lead, come when called and stay in one place. You probably wouldn't expect a go out (or send away as they are called here), drop on recall and a scent exercise – using a toy stuff bear emblematic of the charity.

After the first two weeks, you wouldn't have been able to tell what style of training was being represented. There weren't any clicks and very little praise for anyone – either dog or owner. Again, it's more entertaining to watch the friction between a motivational trainer and an owner that doesn't want to train.

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## CELEBRITY DOG SCHOOL ~ continued

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In the end, the viewers were invited to vote for their favorite team on one of those special phone numbers that earns money for the charity when you call. That was to decide the People's Choice. There was also a judged competition with three judges. They gave each team scores for each exercise ranging from 0 to 20 with a best possible total of 80 points. (A couple of the exercises were paired; stay then come when called; and the go out and drop on recall) The judges didn't award zero although there was very few points to award a dog that doesn't come and lags continuously.

The Survivor ended up being one of the few owners that actually practiced. She and her Daschie won the judges choice. The mix and her comic, gay owner won the People's Choice. His dog finished their competition with impressions – especially Camilla Parker Bowles (dog wearing pearls).

It was good fun. Don't know if it taught anything about dogs and training, but fun nonetheless.

Take care --  
Ginny Conway



Thursday March 25th, 2004

*Carolyn Scott presents*

"Partners In Rhythm"

Canine Freestyle Workshop 2004

International Association of  
Canine Professionals Annual Conference  
Triple Crown Academy and Event Center  
Hutto, Texas

For information:

<http://www.dogpro.org/iacpconference.htm>

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## SCORES AND PLACEMENTS

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MACH2 ADCh U-CD Dusty The Brittany CDX JH MX MXJ MAD  
JM SM RM GM S-EAC RS-E-SP O-EJC JS-E-OP EGC GS-E TN-N  
FDCh CGC, "Dusty" (Brittany) and Lucy Long  
Show: 11/29/2003 New Hope NADAC/ASCA  
Judge: Andrea Hoffman; Elite Jumpers  
Score: 10/140/2nd Place

Show: 12/13/2003 Pawsitive Impact NADAC/ASCA  
Judge: Charles Huber; Elite Gamblers  
Score: 10/90/1st Place

Show: 12/13/2003 Pawsitive Impact NADAC/ASCA  
Judge: Charles Huber; Elite Regular  
Score: 10/425/1st Place

Show: 12/13/2003 Pawsitive Impact NADAC/ASCA  
Judge: Charles Huber; Elite Regular  
Score: 10/435/1st Place

Show: 12/14/2003 Pawsitive Impact NADAC/ASCA  
Judge: Mary Gutknecht; Elite Regular  
Score: 10/445/1st Place

Show: 12/14/2003 Pawsitive Impact NADAC/ASCA  
Judge: Mary Gutknecht; Elite Regular  
Score: 10/455/1st Place

Show: 12/14/2003 Pawsitive Impact NADAC/ASCA  
Judge: Mary Gutknecht; Elite Jumpers  
Score: 10/150/1st Place

**RC Spontaneous Combustion JTC AX AXJ AAD EAC RS-E EJC  
JS-E EGC GS-E HSAs FM, "Burst" (Border Collie) and Lucy  
Long**

Show: 11/29/2003 New Hope NADAC/ASCA  
Judge: Andrea Hoffman; Elite Regular  
Score: 5/55/Qualified

Show: 11/29/2003 New Hope NADAC/ASCA  
Judge: Andrea Hoffman; Elite Regular  
Score: 10/65/1st Place

Show: 11/29/2003 New Hope NADAC/ASCA  
Judge: Andrea Hoffman; Elite Jumpers  
Score: 10/10/1st Place

Show: 11/30/2003 New Hope NADAC/ASCA  
Judge: Andrea Hoffman; Elite Jumpers  
Score: 10/20/2nd Place

**New Elite Jumpers EJC NADAC and JS-E ASCA titles**

Show: 12/13/2003 Pawsitive Impact NADAC/ASCA  
Judge: Charles Huber; Elite Gamblers  
Score: 10/40/1st Place

Show: 12/14/2003 Pawsitive Impact NADAC/ASCA  
Judge: Mary Gutknecht; Elite Regular  
Score: 10/75/1st Place

Show: 12/14/2003 Pawsitive Impact NADAC/ASCA  
Judge: Mary Gutknecht; Elite Regular  
Score: 5/80/1st Place

Show: 12/14/2003 Pawsitive Impact NADAC/ASCA  
Judge: Mary Gutknecht; Elite Jumpers  
Score: 10/30/2nd Place

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## SCORES AND PLACEMENTS

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**MACH JA Ch KD's Scarlet Fire MX MXJ MAD SM RM JM O-EAC RS-E -OP O-EJC JS-E-OP O-EGC GS-E-OP TN-O FM, "Chile" (Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retriever) and Lucy Long**

Show: 11/29/2003 New Hope NADAC/ASCA

Judge: Andrea Hoffman; Elite Regular

Score: 10/290/2<sup>nd</sup> Place

Show: 11/29/2003 New Hope NADAC/ASCA

Judge: Andrea Hoffman; Elite Regular

Score: 10/300/1<sup>st</sup> Place

Show: 11/29/2003 New Hope NADAC/ASCA

Judge: Andrea Hoffman; Elite Jumpers

Score: 10/140/2<sup>nd</sup> Place

Show: 11/30/2003 New Hope NADAC/ASCA

Judge: Toni Pearce; Elite Regular

Score: 10/310/2<sup>nd</sup> Place

Show: 11/30/2003 New Hope NADAC/ASCA

Judge: Toni Pearce; Elite Regular

Score: 10/320/2<sup>nd</sup> Place

Show: 12/13/2003 Pawsitive Impact NADAC/ASCA

Judge: Charles Huber; Elite Gamblers

Score: 10/100/1<sup>st</sup> Place

**New Outstanding Elite Gamblers O-EGC NADAC & GS-E-OP ASCA titles!**

Show: 12/13/2003 Pawsitive Impact NADAC/ASCA

Judge: Charles Huber; Elite Regular

Score: 10/330/1<sup>st</sup> Place

Show: 12/14/2003 Pawsitive Impact NADAC/ASCA

Judge: Mary Gutknecht; Elite Regular

Score: 5/335/2<sup>nd</sup> Place

Show: 12/14/2003 Pawsitive Impact NADAC/ASCA

Judge: Mary Gutknecht; Elite Jumpers

Score: 10/150/2<sup>nd</sup> Place

**M-Titus Jailbird MRA-Zus, CGC TT TDI, "Titus" (Rottweiler) and Brenda Gin Joe**

Show: 4/6/2002 FOR Dogs Fun Match

Judge: Ann Heally; Am. Temperament Testing Society

Results: Passed

New Temperament Tested TT title!

Show: 4/6/2002 FOR Dogs Fun Match

Judge: Ann Heally; Therapy Dogs International

Results: Passed

New Therapy Dog TDI title!

**Scrap's Mad About You, CGC, "Madde" (Australian Shepherd) and Brenda Gin Joe**

Show: 3/10/2003 HOT Dog Club Canine Good Citizen Test

Judge: Betty Rich Results: Passed

New Canine Good Citizen CGC Certificate

**Frequent Turbulents Vam Muhlental, CGC, "Turbo" (Rottweiler) and Brenda Gin Joe**

Show: 12/8/2003 HOT Dog Club Canine Good Citizen Test

Judge: Betty Rich Results: Passed

New Canine Good Citizen CGC Certificate

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## HOT'S DECEMBER ACTIVITIES

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We started off the month with our Fall TD/TDX Test on December 7<sup>th</sup> at Bush Park in West Houston.

Judging the three TD and 4 TDX entries were Linda Bryan and our own **Ginny Conway**. Blessed with good weather and many experienced tracklayers, plotting day went like clockwork and we finished up in record time. The judges even had time to finish their maps before dinner.

Test day was bright and cool with strong to gusty winds. Each of the three TD entrants tracked well, however, they were unable to finish their tracks. The first entrant, a Rottweiler started slow, gathered momentum on the 3<sup>rd</sup> leg then walked right past its glove at the end. The second entrant, a Papillion had a great start but was sucked into a mucky area with the help of the wind, turning way before it's first corner. Once restarted, it completed its track with much enthusiasm and drive. The third entrant, a Doberman also had trouble with a corner, more than likely influenced by the wind.

The TDX dogs also had a run of bad luck. The first, a Portuguese Water Dog had trouble at its start. The second, a Golden Retriever, had trouble at the start, worked it out, cut the corner to its third leg, found its first article but then because it had cut off that corner, restarted its track at the wrong angle and missed its next turn. The third entrant, a Cocker Spaniel put its nose down at the start, dragged its handler down the first three legs, found its first article then turned the wrong way at the next corner. The fourth entrant a beagle never really got started and was called off before it ever got going.

Even though no dogs passed, it was a successful test. The judges did an outstanding job of plotting interesting and different tracks. **Christy Varhaug**, Test Chair/Secretary had everything well organized and in order. **Kathleen Milford**, Chief Tracklayer set a realistic schedule, and then held the judges to it, with a lot of cooperation from the weather. Many thanks to the following for their help and support with this event:

TD Tracklayers: **Betty Rich**, Jan Nuzzo and **George Anna Bobo**

TDX Tracklayers: **Karen Cloud**, Ed Marrow, Kathy Daniel, Anne Smith and Jeff Shaver

Crosstracks were directed and laid by **Nancy Ward** with help from the gallery.

**Ethelene Bucy** provided transportation for our judges and tracklayers.

**Lannie Williams** provided a wonderful lunch.

**Pam Bradley** provided Ginny with a place to stay saving the club the cost of hotel accommodations.

Next up, on the very next day, was HOT's Canine Good Citizen Test at the training lot. This event was chaired and administered by **Betty Rich** with the assistance of many HOT members, including: **Theresa Bergeron, Sheri Morgan, Nancy Ward, Margaret Scoggin**, "Daphanae" Scoggin, **Jan Weeks Franzen, Kathleen Milford**, "Indy" Milford and **Cindy Hyde**. (*I know I've left someone out, sorry, please tell me who you are so I can acknowledge you personally!*) Many thanks to Betty's husband, Jim for providing the distraction. If your dog earned its CGC Certificate at this or any other test, be sure to fill out a scores notification form so your title can be recorded and you receive your plaque at the June Awards Banquet (*if all other eligibility requirements are met!*)

HOT's Holiday Party was held December 20<sup>th</sup> at the home of Jim and **Pam Bradley**. Do you know that some of our members look forward to this annual event so much that they start shopping for their swap gifts during the after Christmas sales! The hot item at this year's party was a red fleece robe, modeled by **Mike Clements**. The doggie-themed robe was strategically stolen the maximum number of times, then traded for after the swap officially ended. Dog toys and treats were as popular as ever. There were some beautiful placemats and napkins and an official "Pup" tent, perfect for crating your special friend on a warm day.

**Lannie Williams** provided a wonderful roast for the main course, delivered to the party by her brother, David Huffington since the cook was suffering from a sinus headache. Hot members contributed a plethora of tasty dishes, desserts and libations. As usual there was way more than we could consume in one evening.

Last up was our VST Tracking Test at Rice University. Our judges, Sally Elkins of Katy and David Meredith of Garland, plotted five beautiful tracks on the mostly deserted campus. Ed Marrow, **Margaret Scoggin, Nancy Ward**, Linda Bryan and **Kathleen Milford** laid tracks. **Karen Cloud** provided transportation for our judges. **Margaret Scoggin** provided kolaches for the early morning tracklayers and **Betty Rich** provided donuts for the gallery. David and George Anna Bobo and Sandy Bertram were also on hand to support the event.

There were some great dogs entered in this test. The first track was run by a Golden Retriever. The dog hit its first leg, dead on; worked out a tricky

scent condition at the first corner, then sank low into its harness and drug its handler down the next leg. She was momentarily distracted near the next corner by a squirrel, made the turn, crossed a road and started down the side of the building where the track was laid, then for some reason came back and decided to work down the road a ways. They were unable to recover.

A Belgian Tervuren who started strong then walked over its metal article ran the next track.

The third entrant was a Pembroke Welsh Corgi who was drawn across the street by circling scent and missed an article and turn.

A Westie who traveled all the way from Pennsylvania for some southern hospitality attempted the fourth track. She had a hard time at the start and never really got going.

An Irish Setter drew the fifth track. There were several distractions on its first leg including a croquette game and several squirrels. With a lot of urging from her handler, she worked past the distractions and made her first corner. She pulled her handler up to this first article, but he was too intent on watching his dog to notice the article lying at his feet. The dog was finally able to get him to look down so he could pick up the plastic lid. The track then continued across a road, along side a small parking lot the, between some buildings into a courtyard. Just as the tracking team crossed the road a mom with two kids on scooters and a very noisy Airedale walked up the sidewalk to see what we were doing. The Golden rushed past them to make sure this new dog didn't get her track, and in her frenzy to pull ahead of them, made a right turn instead of a left. Its just bad luck and timing, because once they restarted, this team finished up their track with ease.

So, you can see that December was a busy month for us. Listed here are just some of the activities our members were involved in. There were also classes on the training lot, tracking classes, tracking tests held by other clubs for which we laid tracks, breed shows, obedience trials and agility trials that our members participated in. There's already been one tracking test and breed show in January and there are agility trials for the next three weeks. So stay healthy, train and get your dogs ready to show, and have fun.

Happy New Year!

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**HOUSTON OBEDIENCE TRAINING DOG CLUB  
Notification of Qualifying Scores and Placements**

Registered Name & Titles: \_\_\_\_\_

Call Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Breed: \_\_\_\_\_

Owner/Handler: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Show or Trial: \_\_\_\_\_

Judge: \_\_\_\_\_ Class: \_\_\_\_\_

Score/Leg/Placement/: \_\_\_\_\_ New Title: \_\_\_\_\_

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Send information to  
Kathleen Milford, Hotline Editor  
P. O. Box 271905  
Houston, Texas 77277-1905  
corgi@flash.net

# Hot Dog Club Meetings, Classes, Events and Activities

## Announcements:

Board of Directors Meeting: Tuesday, January 27, 2004.  
All members are welcome to attend.

Regular meetings begin at 7:00 p.m. in Room 305 of the Spring Branch Community Center. Except when affected by a holiday, Regular meetings are held on the 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of the month.

## Classes:

Classes will resume after the first of the year. Check our website for starting dates.

## Reminder:

Members must pre-register for all classes. Contact Cindy to sign up for one of these or any future class.

## Club Events and Activities:

3/21	Spring T/X*	K Milford
6/19	Awards Banquet	tbd
8/7-8	Chris Zink Seminar	M. Scoggin <i>* Pending AKC approval</i>
tbd	Spring Obedience Trial	C McCullough



## HOTLINE

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