



UKC obedience

Mary-Lynn Jensen, Ph.D.

Obedience events test the training of dogs as they perform a series of exercises at the command of their handler. There are several levels of competition, ranging from basic commands such as "sit," "come" and "heel" to scent discrimination and directed retrieves over jumps. The classes are further divided by the experience of the handler as well. All dogs start their competition with a perfect score of 200, and points are deducted according to the performance of dog and handler. Obedience events offer an opportunity for the handler and dog to form a special bond of trust unequalled in other events.

Basic Ring Manners

Basic good manners are

expected of all dogs at a UKC obedience trial. All dogs should be on a leash except when in the ring in a class or exercise where the dog is required to be off the leash. Every dog must enter and leave the obedience ring on a leash.

Dogs that bark during or between the exercises can be penalized. The degree of penalty depends on the frequency of barking.

Dogs that soil the ring will be receive a disqualifying score but may be allowed to continue the exercises for practice at the discretion of the Judge.

A dog that leaves the ring *during* an exercise must not receive a qualifying score but may be allowed

to continue the exercises for practice at the discretion of the Judge. A dog that leaves the ring *between* exercises must be given a major deduction.

Novice Competition/ United Companion Dog Title

Novice competition requires that your Dal demonstrate the basic rudiments of obedient behavior. Individual novice exercises including heeling on lead with an honor dog, figure eight heeling on lead, heeling off lead, recall over a high jump, and an "honor" down. An honor down means that your Dal will complete his/her down stay (with you in the ring) while the next dog completes its on lead

(Continued on page 2)

Officers and Board Members

President	Carol Chase	fiacredals@aol.com
Vice President	Amy Marrich	amy@abbeyroadsdals.com
Corresponding Secretary	Marion Mitchell	dalcrazy@cybermesa.com
Recording Secretary	Corinne James	fsdals@gmail.com
Treasurer	Dana Carey	danascostumes@hotmail.com

Board Member:

Denise Powell

wellbredK9s@sbcglobal.net

Newsletter Editor

Carol Hunter
dalsncars@gmail.com
P.O. Box 382
Vernon AZ 85940
928-242-8464

Inside this issue:

Super Dal	2
Health Issues in the Dal, Corinne James	3
Meet: Corresponding Secretary Marion Mitchell	3
A very little Humor	4

(Continued from page 1)

heeling pattern. Sit stays are done as a group exercise.

Open Competition/United Companion Dog Excellent Title

Open competition asks a bit more of your Dal. All heeling is done off lead, including the figure eight. Rather than a recall over the high jump, your Dal will be asked to “drop” midway back on the recall. In UKC competition, you may give *both* a hand *and* a verbal command to drop and a steward will walk past your dog while he/she is in the dropped position. Two different retrieves are included; a retrieve on the flat and a retrieve over the high jump. Your Dal must go over the jump on both the trip out to get the dumbbell and the trip back to return to you.

Utility Competition/United Utility Dog Title

The Utility competition allows you and your Dal to demonstrate advanced obedience skills. Utility exercises are much more complex than either Novice or Open exercises. In the signal exercise you will heel, stand and leave your dog using only hand signals. After crossing the ring without your Dal, you will then use hand signals to “drop” your dog to a

down position, sit them up from the down position and then to recall and finish. During this time, you are across the ring and using only hand signals to communicate with the dog. The scent exercise tests your Dal’s nose. Five articles (generally small dumbbells) are used. Only one will be handled by the owner at the start of this exercise, while the remaining four are touched/handled by the steward. All five articles are then placed in the center of the ring and your Dal will be sent to locate and retrieve the one that you have “scented.” The articles are numbered to make sure that your Dal has retrieved the proper article. During the directed signal retrieve exercise, your Dal will be asked to move out away from you and sit at your signal and then retrieve a specific glove that you indicate. Three gloves are placed in the ring; one each to your left and right at a 45 angle from you and one straight out in front of you. The left and right gloves are closer than the center glove. At a signal from the judge, your Dal is sent towards a spot midway between you and the glove. As your Dal reaches the spot that has been indicated by the judge, you give them the command to sit (this is somewhat like the reverse of the Open level drop on recall). After completing the sit, upon a signal from the judge, you send your

Dal to retrieve a specific glove. The last Utility exercise is directed jumping. At a signal from the judge, you’ll send your Dal straight out to the opposite side of the ring, where you’ll ask him/her to sit. Once seated, you’ll use a hand signal to send them to either a bar or a high jump. These jumps are located midway across the ring to the right and left of where the dog is sitting.

Common Themes

For all obedience exercise, there are some common themes. At the conclusion of every exercise, your Dal is asked to “finish” or come back around into heel position. This can be done by going around behind you from right to left, or by doing a “swing” finish and circling on your left side to return to heel position. In Open and Utility competition, you are not allowed to touch your dog to guide him from one exercise location to the next. Although you may gently guide the dog by the collar in Novice, if you plan to continue to advanced work, this is a habit you may not want to build.

All in all, obedience can be a lot of fun for both you and your Dal. It gives you the chance to demonstrate

(Continued on page 4)

UKC Super Dog!

Super Dog is an unofficial title given to the dogs who earn a title in each of the following four UKC all-breed events; conformation, obedience, agility and weight pull (UKC working events are open to all breeds). There are only 38 UKC Super Dogs in existence.

UKC Super Dog #30

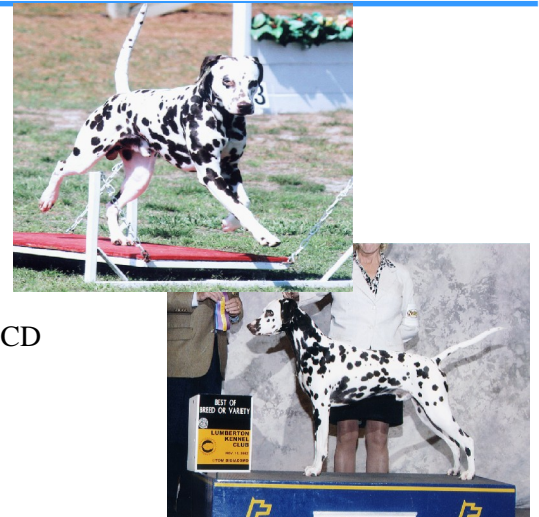
**U-CDX U-ACHX U-WP GRCH
AKC CH GLENDALE'S BIKER
BOY NORTON CDX OAP NAJP
NA NAJ NAC NJC CL1/2-R**

CL1/2-F CL1/2-H CL1/2-S

Sire: Am/Can Ch U-AgI Woodwynd’s Home Brew CDX Can CD AXJ OA Am/Can RD NJC CPC PAC

Dam: U-CDX U-ACHX UKC/AKC CH Glendale's Sweet And Sassy UD OA AXJ OAP NAJP NAC-V NJC-V CPC TT ASCA CD

Owned & Bred by Glenys Keith



Health Issues in the Dal by Corinne James

It has also been known since the first half of the twentieth century that the production of excess urinary uric acid in Dalmatians is controlled by a simple autosomal recessive genetic mechanism. Dalmatian outcrosses with other breeds were reported in scientific journals in 1923 and 1938. Both outcrosses produced offspring with urinary uric acid levels comparable to that of the non-Dalmatian parent. The 1938 study followed two generations down from the initial outcross and demonstrated the simple genetics of urinary uric acid production.

Excess urinary uric acid requires each parent to contribute a recessive member of the gene pair controlling uric acid metabolism. The complement is a dominant allele that facilitates the conversion of uric acid to the soluble compound allantoin. Since the allele which results in the metabolism of uric acid to allantoin is dominant, if a dog inherits one copy of the uric acid conversion gene, it will produce lower concentrations of urinary uric acid.

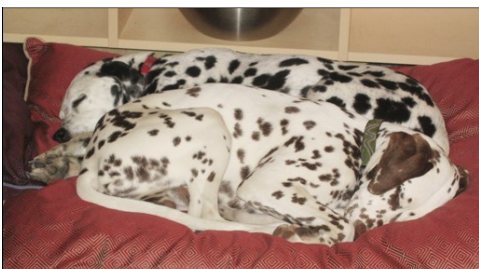
In 1973, Dr. Richard Schaible crossed an AKC-registered Dalmatian bitch with a healthy AKC champion Pointer. As

expected, all puppies from this mating produced the same lower concentration of urinary uric acid as the Pointer. Nevertheless, each also carried one copy of the recessive high urinary uric acid allele. The offspring from the Dal-Pointer cross were bred to another AKC Dalmatian, as were the offspring of each subsequent generation. The puppies' urine was tested for urinary uric acid. Only puppies that had inherited the dominant Pointer gene for uric acid metabolism were considered for future matings. Dr Schaible continued this work, with contributions from Dr Holly Nelson

(Continued on page 4)

Meet the Board: Corresponding Secretary Marion Mitchell

Terry and I got our first dal in July of 1984. Funnily enough his father was a Touchstone dog. Cathy Murphy the owner of Touchstone (now deceased) started our North American Dalmatian Club in 2002 so it seems as if we have come full circle. Max was a stone former and loved to climb mountains. He was 2 weeks short of his 14th birthday when we said goodbye



Tessa and Will

Our second dal was epi Angel Emma. She was a showdog but the epilepsy brought an end to that. I

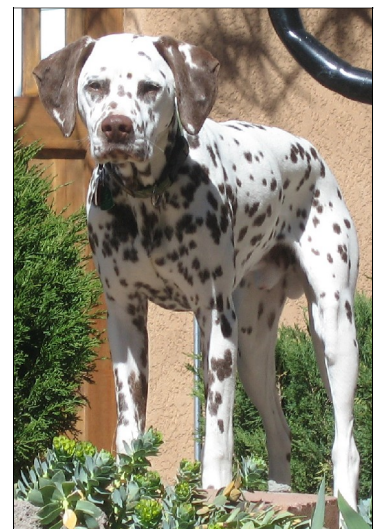
borrowed a friend's bitch and we bred her to Jester. Out of the 10 puppies I kept Tessa who went on to be the first Specialty Winner in Colorado. She finished with 4 majors. We bred Tessa to Billy and had a litter of 4 girls 3 patches and my dog from hell Rosie. Rosie had a real problem with aggression and extremely low thyroid and after living with this for 9 years we decided that it would be best to say goodbye to her which we did in May.

After Emma died last year I contacted Denise whom I had known for some time. I wanted a LUA liver male. Within a couple of weeks Denise sent me a photo of a puppy with the cutest face we fell in love and the rest is history.

Will is now almost a year old and has a wonderful temperament, great recall, and loves Tessa who

is almost 13 now. They always sleep together. We feed a raw diet it stopped Emma's seizures and Tessa is doing well on it as is Will.

I am very proud to be part of this LUA program, together we all are making breed history.



**Encantado's Where
There's a Will**

NADA

NORTH AMERICAN DALMATIAN

Dedicated to the promotion of the sound healthy Dalmatian
An ancient breed with much to offer; in obedience, agility, conformation and

The NADA National Specialty will be Oct 18, 2008 in (or around) Davis, CA. Judge will be Tom Tracy.

Health (Continued from page 3)
before her death and from Joanne Nash and Sara Ledgerwood.

In 2005, the project was revisited by Dalmatian breeder Denise Powell and Dr. Danika Bannasch, a population geneticist at UC Davis. More breeders have also since become involved, breeding their best AKC-registered representatives of the Dalmatian breed with Dals descended from the outcross. Dalmatians from the 10th 11th and 12th generations of this breeding strategy have inherited more than 99.5% of their genetic material from their AKC-registered Dalmatian ancestors.

Using samples from these and earlier descendants, Dr. Bannasch has isolated the gene responsible for the metabolism of purine to soluble allantoin and a genetic test is available to help breeders identify which offspring carries one or two copies of this gene. The Dalmatians that carry this dominant gene produce lower concentrations of urinary uric acid and are referred to as LUA Dalmatians.

Breeders who are working on introducing the LUA gene into the general Dalmatian population are moving carefully to minimize genetic bottlenecks and to produce Dals that conform most closely to the AKC Dalmatian standard.

Obedience (Continued from page 2)

just how smart our spotted friends really are. Dalmatians learn much better using positive training methods, so it is generally recommended to break down each exercise into smaller component parts and reward your Dal as he/she learns each step. Then as the steps are put together to build the complete exercise, you can gradually begin to wean away the rewards until you are rewarding with an ear rub or a "good dog" at the successful conclusion of each exercise and then a food reward after the entire performance is complete.

Next month...an introduction to UKC agility.

Puppies

I am pleased to announce that Aberdeen's Anastasia gave birth to 8 pups on May 16th. The sire of the litter is Ch Guardian Brave and Noble.

There are 4 males and 4 females in the litter.

Two of the males and one of the females are liver.

One of the black males is patched. Two of the females and one of the males inherited the LUA gene.

Denise Powell
Aberdeen Dalmatians

A Little Humor, or not

Pet dogs shed ... Show dogs blow coat.

Pet dogs are in heat ... Show dogs come into season.

Pet dogs trot ... Show dogs gait or move.

Pet dogs stand ... Show dogs stack.

Pet dogs get a bath ... Show dogs are groomed.

Pet dogs beg for treats ... Show dogs express desire for bait.

Pet dogs raid the garbage ... Obedience dogs show a natural tendency for scent articles.

Pet dogs jump the fence ... Obedience dogs demonstrate natural jumping ability.

Pet dogs poop ... Obedience dogs toilet.

Pet dogs bark at other dogs ... Obedience dogs show excitement before showing.

~Author Unknown~

