



July 2008

**President: Marie-P Babin**  
autumwynd@sympatico.ca

**Vice-President: Eileen Fisher**  
eileenfi@sympatico.ca

**Secretary: Maryke Warwick**  
maryke5024@rogers.com

**Treasurer: Bev Wiggans**  
bwiggans@wshighspeed.com

**Social: Dorothy Phillips**  
db.phillips@sympatico.ca

**Equipment: Mel Babin**

**Newsletter Editors:**  
Maryke Warwick  
Marie-P Babin



Mike Gannon with "Goose" Laura McKay with "Solo" Mirkka Koivusalo with "Dea"  
Judge Sharon Smith and our Mascot "Tracker"

### Cross Country Tracking Club's UTD & TD Test May 11 2008

We enjoyed having Sharon & Terry Smith with us over the weekend. Sharon was our judge. Our tracklayers were Eileen Fisher, Maryke Warwick, Candy Rennie, Susan Coutts, Cynthia Thomas and myself.

We were happy to also have non member Renee Koch offer to be a tracklayer. Renee earned a TD last year on her Std. Poodle at our test.

Frank Downs counts all our flags after the test and ties them so we don't leave anything behind in the farmers fields.

Of course we always have a great pot-luck lunch supplied by our Club members held at HQ which is at Bev Wiggans.

The weather didn't co-operate with us this time as it was "Blow your hat off" winds !! Just awful !

We started at 8:00 am with 4 UTD dogs at the Lakeview Park in Oshawa and one dog Passed !

CH. Pinebank's One Of A Kind TDX WCI CDX JH RA UTD  
Yellow Labrador bitch "Solo" owned by Laura McKay of Guelph Ont.

Solo and Laura did a great job. First article was a piece of baseboard in the parking lot and the end article was a piece of leather on the grass by the sidewalk.

The other three dogs were GSD females.

Then to the 9 TD's in Bowmanville where the wind really got worse.

Out of the 9 dogs entered, only 2 passed.

1- Stelmo's Bona Dea (Hovawart bitch)

Owned by Mirkka Koivusalo of Toronto (Club Member)

Mirkka brought Dea over from Finland. Very nice working dog.

2- CH. Esmonds Perfect Opportunity (Rottweiler bitch)

Owned by Mike & Nancy Gannon / A. Felske-Jackman / T Ausloos of WI

Another really nice working dog.

The others were, more Rottweilers and a few Labradors.

Hopefully we'll have better conditions next time.

Marie (CCTC) Club Pres.

## New Little Trackers



### **“Shorty”**

Victory's Short Of Cash W  
Std. Wire Haired Dachshund  
Co-owned by Susan Skolnick & Eileen Fisher



### **“Sky”**

Shetland Sheepdog  
Owned by Sharon Palmer

### **“KD”**

Qadira vom Eichenluft  
German Shepherd Dog  
Owned by Bev Wiggans



## CCTC Members' Brags



**"Kennie"**

Victory's Mackenzie Can/Am CDX. AGX. JE. RE.  
VATCHC

Kennie earned her RE in Belleville Mar. 08

Owned by Eileen Fisher



**"Dexter"**

CH Victory's Bean With The Devil P-CD RA

Dexter earned his RA in Belleville Mar.08

Owned by Eileen Fisher



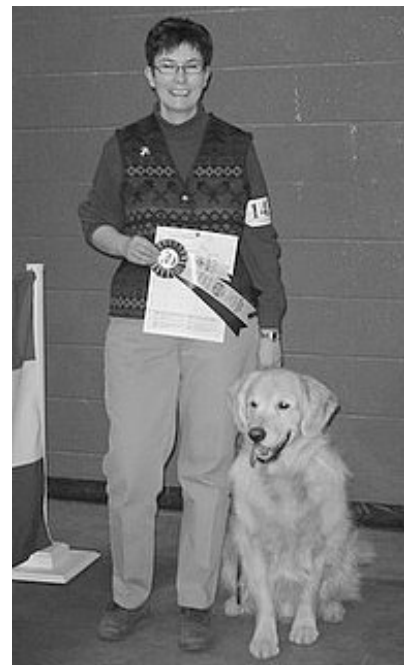
**"Tory"**

Gowrielea's Notorius RN P-CD CD

Tory earned his Pre-Companion Dog Title in Belleville Mar.08

June 22/08 at NYOC Tory earned his CD

Owned by Sandy Brodie



OTCH Bridgeton's Too Hot To Handle WCX SH TD

Earned his OTCH in Belleville Mar. 2008

Owned by Pamela Martin

## CCTC Members' Brags Cont....



**"Elliott"**

CH. SR Castlegar Elliott CDX WCI JH TD RE Am.CDX.  
He earned his RE in Belleville March 22/08 ,his Am. CDX March 30/08 & his SR May 2008  
Owned by Maryke Warwick.



**"Layla"**

CH. Beadog Dandylion At Elliquin RN  
She earned her RN in Belleville March 22/08 and 2 legs of her Rally Advanced.  
Owned by Maryke Warwick.



**"Quinn"**

CH. OTCH. Selamat's Rahontsi Quinn WC JH TD RN Am.CDX  
earned his RN at Orono, June 14/08  
Owned by Maryke Warwick



**"Brogan"**

CH.SR. Autumwynd Harvest Knight WCI JH RA  
He earned his RA title and 2 legs of his RE title March.23/08 in Belleville.  
Owned by Maryke Warwick



**"Marlo"**

CH. SR Castlegar Marlo At Autumwynd CDX TD WC JH RE CGN Am. CD RA  
She earned her RE in Belleville March 22/08 , her Am. RN in Syracuse March 29 , her RA and her 2nd CDX leg in Hamburg April 13/08 and her SR May 2008  
Owned by Marie-P Babin

## More Brags...



**“Jorja”**

CH.SR. Autumwynd Midnite N Jorja CD WC JH RE  
earned her CD & Rally-O RE in Belleville  
March.23/08

Owned by Marie-P Babin



**“Frankie”**

CH.Autumwynd Frankie Starlite RA CD  
earned her Rally-O RA in Belleville March 23/08  
Also won Best of Breed and a Group 4th placing  
at Victoria County Show April 26/08  
June 28/08 Frankie finished her CD.  
Owned by Marie-P Babin



**“Jess”**

Keepers' Jess RN 13 1/2 years old !  
Earned her CKC RN April 20/2008  
Owned by Susan Coutts



**“Tank”**

Autumwynd Storm Tracker TDX , RA , CARO RN  
Therapy Dog.  
Earned his CKC RA April 20/2008  
Owned by Susan Coutts

## Brags Cont....



### “Sera & Mia”

MOTCH Goldencol Moonlight Serenade, JH, WC – Am. CDX  
MOTCH Heron Acres Sand By Me, RE, WC – Am. UD  
Sera finished her OTCHX and MOTCH in Belleville Mar.08  
Mia finished her RE at the Belleville trial with 2-100's Mar.08

Owned by Irene Mullan



### “Rocky”

Robilanes' Rock On CD RN Am. RN  
Earned his Am. RN in Hamburg April 13/08  
Owned by Frank Downs



### “Titan”

Titan is “CH Nitelatches Grandgables Safari CD RN”  
Earned his RN title at HDOC Feb. 2008

Owned by Maureen Smith



### “Legacy”

Legacy is “Windgates Keeper's Legacy CGN HS CD RN  
Am CD”

Earned his RN title at HDOC Feb. 2008

Owned by Maureen Smith

## More Brags.....



**“Dibbs”**

Kassaland’s Bo Dibbley P-CD RN  
Dibbs earned his RN on April 19,2008  
Owned by Rosie Van Bommel



**“Cole”**

OTCH Fourwinds Cole Mine To Have RA CGN  
Cole earned his RA on April 19,2008  
Owned by Rosie Van Bommel



**“Chad”**

Fourwinds Dragon King CDX AGN RA  
Am CD  
Chad earned his RA on April 19,2008  
Owned by Rosie Van Bommel



**“Amy”**

Amy NCD Caro RN  
earned her NAMBR CD April 5/08  
and her CARO RN  
Owned by Rosie Van Bommel



**“Brady”**

OTCH Baskin Brave Brady at Luvits AM CDX, RN,  
Caro RN  
earned his 3rd MOTCH leg at NYOC June 22/08  
Owned by Ricki Abrams



**“Holly”**

Holly NCD  
earned her NAMBR CD April5/08  
Owned by Ricki Abrams

## And more Brags.....



### **“Jersey”**

Castlegar JG RN P-CD  
earned her PCD (Pre-Novice Dog) title and her  
RN title at the LOC trial June 6/08  
Owned by Candy Rennie



### **“Bandit”**

MOTCH Donant’s Bandit At Luvits Am CDX AADC  
Earned his AADC Advanced Agility Dog



### **“Dea”**

Stelmo’s Bona Dea TD (Hovawart)  
earned her TD at the CCTC tracking test May 11,08  
Owned by Mirikka Koivusalo



### **“Ty”**

Plails– Dream TY One On CD CGN HT,RNMCL ,FDCH-S FDCH–  
Gold  
Ty earned his CD and his FDCH-Gold in 2008  
Owned by Dorothy Phillips



Gone but not Forgotten.....



**“Phantom”**

June 9, 1996 - May 20, 2008

Jerryru Phantom Streaker, CGC, FMX, JH, WCI  
Labrador Retriever

Loved and will be missed by Victoria Vidal–Ribas



**“Tango”**

CH. Toraq’s Moonlight’n Shadows CD AGI TD VADC  
St John Ambulance Therapy Dog  
Portuguese Water Dog

Loved and will be missed by Anne and Tony Passafiume



**“Jewel”**

Keepers’ Jewel (GSD mill rescue) was a sweet and gentle dog.  
July 17, 1996—June 5, 2008

Loved and will be missed by Susan and David Coutts



Susan Dubois' Beauceron "Abby"

Abby Du Murier De Sordeille TD

Puppies were born June 25/08 Five boys and four girls.





**CH SR AUTUMWYND HARVEST KNIGHT CD WCI JH RA**

“Brogan” won the Versatility Trophy Award at the LRCC National Specialty 2008

He was entered in Conformation, Obedience & Field Work.  
He won the Gun Dog Class, passed a WCI test and got his CD in three straight trials.  
Owned by Maryke Warwick.

## THE CKC TRACKING TESTS

There are now 4 Tracking titles awarded by the CKC: **TD** or *Tracking Dog*, and the more difficult, advanced tests: **TDX** or *Tracking Dog Excellent*, **UTD** or *Urban Tracking Dog* and **UTDX** or *Urban Tracking Dog Excellent*. A TD title is a prerequisite for entering TDX and UTD tests; a UTD is a prerequisite for entering a UTDX test. A dog which has earned all 4 CKC tracking titles (TD, TDX, UTD, UTDX) will be awarded the title of **Tracking Champion**.

Unlike obedience where the dog must pass three times before being awarded a CKC title, you need pass only one test to earn a tracking title.

### TD

At the TD level, the dog is required to follow a stranger's track, which must be at least a half-hour old (but no more than 2 hours old). This track is 400-450 metres long, has 2 to 5 turns, and has a leather article at the end - usually a glove. The start of the track is indicated by a pole, and there is a second pole that indicates the direction of the first "leg" of the track. The dog must follow the track and indicate that he has found the article in order to pass the test. An "indication" usually means that the dog will sit or lie down by the article. Some dogs are taught to retrieve any found articles. Either is acceptable.

### TDX

At the TDX level, only the start of the track is indicated by a pole. This track is 900—100 metres long and at least 3 hours old (no more than 5 hours old). It has 5 to 8 turns, is laid over varying terrain, may cross a road, and is crossed in two places by a second track-layer one hour after the primary track is laid. There are two articles along the track, and a third at the end. The dog may not follow the cross-tracks, and must find the last article as well as one of the first two in order to earn a TDX title.

## **UTD – Urban Tracking Dog**

Prerequisite: TD

Track Length: 300 - 400 m

Track Age: 1 - 2 hours

Articles: 2 (both must be located by the dog). The first article may be fabric, wood or plastic, the last shall be leather. Articles shall be approx. 4"X 6" inches in size. One article shall be left on a non-vegetated surface. The dog will not be penalized/failed for indicating additional articles that were not left by the tracklayer.

Terrain: Urban areas such as office parks, industrial parks, campuses, schools, etc. Approximately 2/3 of the track shall be on vegetation, the other 1/3 (no less than 100 m)

shall be on non-vegetated surfaces such as gravel, dirt, sand, mulch, brick, concrete or asphalt. The first 30 meters of the track shall be on vegetation.

Turns: 3-5, both left & right, at least 2 are 90 degrees, no acute turns. One turn shall be on a non-vegetated surface.

Obstacles: none

Cross-tracks: none plotted, but naturally occurring cross-tracks are to be expected in an urban environment, so if they should happen, they will not invalidate the track.

## **UTDX – Urban Tracking Dog Excellent**

Prerequisite: UTD

Track Length: 600 - 750 m

Track Age: 3 - 5 hours

Articles: 3 (all must be located by the dog). The first and second may be fabric, wood, plastic or metal; the last shall be leather. Articles shall be approx. 4"X 6" in size. At least one article shall be left on a non-vegetated surface. The dog will not be penalized/failed for indicating additional articles that were not left by the tracklayer.

Terrain: Urban areas such as office parks, industrial parks, campuses, schools, etc. A minimum of 1/3 and a maximum of 1/2 of the track shall be on non-vegetated surfaces such as gravel, dirt, sand, mulch, brick, concrete or asphalt. The remaining parts of the track shall be on vegetation. The first 30 meters of the track shall be on vegetation.

Turns: 5 - 7, both left & right, no acute angles less than 45 degrees. One 90 degree turn shall occur in a non-vegetated area with no vegetation, fences or buildings within 25 m of the turn.

Obstacles: guardrails, stairs, open buildings (ie. breezeways, gazebos, parking garages) are permitted. No track may enter a closed building.

Cross-tracks: none plotted, but naturally occurring cross-tracks are to be expected in an urban environment, so if they should happen, they will not invalidate the track.

### **Championship Title:**

A dog which has earned all 4 CKC tracking titles (TD, TDX, UTD, UTDX) shall be awarded the title of Tracking Champion. The initials TCh. may be displayed in front of the dog's name

## A Track-layer's point of view on an Urban Track May 11,2008

Thought some might be interested in how it was seen from the tracklayers' point of view. Laura did an excellent job of handling, giving Solo the time and space she needed to work it out. Solo was just awesome in her dedication to this track.

I believe the flag had been removed the day before, after plotting. I had checked when we arrived at 7 a.m. and it was missing. This is a very busy park, right beside Lake Ontario.

Not having a replacement flag, I stuck in a pencil at the start. There was zero wind while the track was put down. While the track was aging, a tremendous wind came up off the lake. A nearby magnolia tree in bloom had all the petals blown off, scattering around the start. A lady walking a dog went right across 2 sections of the veg. track close to the start time. Also, about 20+ young boys were on a warm-up jog through this section, two or three abreast, zig-zagging around the trees and running over the parts of the early track on veg.

Solo started right out on the track, but did a circle back around (no wonder!) and then took off like a shot on the track. She nailed her first corner on the veg. After this, she was in the major contaminated area, and the winds were horrendous, blowing across this.

She veered a fair way off to the left, working it out, but continued to come back on the track. She was right back on the exact spot when I stepped off the veg. onto the pavement, and then veered to the left again on pavement over to the curbed island area with grass. She worked along this a lot, then shot back across the pavement where the CD case was on a black patched area. When I put this down, the big cleaning machine was out there sucking up everything. I had to stop the fellow and point out the CD case I was leaving, asking him to go around it. Luckily our "paths" crossed at the time, or it may have disappeared! I continued down the middle of the paved area, making a right turn marked by the end of the centre island, and onto a white parking line to the veg.

The two pine trees here branched out about 4' from the ground, so yes, you had to double over to walk under them. I actually had my hood stuck on one branch and had to yank it out going under. Fun part!

Just past the trees and before a sidewalk along the road, the track turned right and the leather article was left further on, near a road sign.

With the tremendously high winds that had blown up, when Laura and Solo were running the track, the concern was the scent from the final article was carrying across to the non-veg. section of the track. Twice Solo looked like she just might shoot over to it, but luckily, she moved back to the track on pavement which she worked out very nicely. Just before the turn, as Solo was nearing it, a lady had stopped her car, and her daughter got out to get something out of the trunk. We were worried about this, Solo being a friendly lab, and the young girl so close by, mom and her talking. Solo was so busy working out this section, she didn't really seem to notice.

I think this was a beautifully worked track by both Laura and Solo, a pleasure to watch, and was very happy to see them pass. I was able to get a few pictures walking behind with the judge as well. A well-earned title!

Congratulations again to Laura and Solo.

Susan C



## CAN YOU TRACK YOUR OWN TRACKS:

Knowing where your track is going and being able to find the articles is important. So important that it is time for you to go to the tracking field, without your dog, and lay a typical track. Age it for whatever time you usually age your tracks. At the appropriate time return and see if you can track your own track. This is not bad when no one else is around to watch. During the tracking seminars held by Gene England and Mike Rankin, at the Advance Canine Academy in Bowling Green, Kentucky, the instructors and other students watch the often frustrated handlers attempt to negotiate their own tracks. Most beginning trackers and some knowledgeable trainers use many flags on the track to mark turns, articles, and to keep from getting lost. What is happening here is the dog ends up tracking or indicating the marker flags. I have been with tracking teams where the dog indicated a marker flag and was rewarded for doing so. The handler was happy the dog had found something even though there was no article near the marker flag.

Do not reinforce unacceptable behavior.

If the tracklayer can see a marker flag you can be sure the dog can. The only flag that should be on the field is the flag used to mark the start of the track placed to the left of the scent pad. Rewarding a dog for finding a

marker flag is rewarding behavior, which will not be successful in a trial or test. The only time article indication is permitted is when the dog has found a properly scented article that has been placed on the track by the tracklayer. Getting lost or exhausted.

When you are tracking and your dog appears to have had enough, or you become hopelessly lost, stop and put your dog on a down stay. Walk ten or so feet in front of the dog and drop an article so the dog does not see you drop it. Walk back causing the track to be double laid and restart your dog. When your tracker finds the all-important article give him praise and a reward, from your hand, on top of the article. The dog has properly found an article and has been rewarded, thus setting up a positive mental attitude. Now may be a good time to break off the track, rest your dog or go home. Even if you and the dog are lost, the dog will finish up with a positive experience, and will be looking forward to the next training session. Over taxing a dog in training accomplishes little other than developing avoidance behaviors.

When the training session is over the dog must always feel as though he has won. The dog is going to remember the last important experience of the training session. He needs to leave the tracking field in a positive frame of mind; otherwise, he may display the strangest behaviors at the most inopportune times.

How often have you heard people say, "My dog never did that before" after messing up in a trial/test? A well-trained dog is the result of many small victories and positive training experiences, developing a good mental

attitude, and finding his security in knowing what is expected.

Successful training is an accumulation of many small victories. Breaking off a track because your dog is exhausted or lost may mean losing the remaining articles. Your dog is more important than your articles.

Dennis Helm

## **Upcoming Tracking Tests for 2008 Ontario & Quebec**

**Eps Training Associates** Powassan ON 23-Aug-2008 to 24-Aug-2008  
Event Secretary IVAN PAUL RR 4 POWASSAN, ON, P0H 1Z0 (705) 724-2676

**Sudbury & District Kennel Club Inc.** Lively ON 30-Aug-2008 to 01-Sep-2008  
Event Secretary RONALD C EVESON 600 MCKERRAL RD PO BOX 208 MARKSTAY, ON, P0M 2G0 (705) 853-0881

**By-town Dog Obedience Club** Orleans ON 21-Sep-2008  
Event Secretary KIMBERLEE A COOPER 1470 KAMOURASKA CIRCLE ORLEANS, ON, K1C 3J2 (613) 834-0980

**German Shepherd Dog Club Of London** Thorndale ON 21-Sep-2008  
Event Secretary SHARON SMITH 20170 FAIRVIEW RD RR 2 THORNDALE, ON, N0M 2P0 (519) 461-1909

**Cross Country Tracking Club** Clarington ON 19-Oct-2008  
Event Secretary CANDACE L RENNIE 60 CHRISTINA CR SCARBOROUGH, ON, M1R 4H8 (416) 444-0733

**Thunder Bay Kennel & Training Club Inc.** Thunder Bay ON 25-Oct-2008 to 26-Oct-2008  
Event Secretary KAREN L BOYES 1345 RIVERDALE RD THUNDER BAY, ON, P7J 1N1 (807) 475-0210

**Cross Country Tracking Club** Clarington ON 09-Nov-2008  
Event Secretary EILEEN J.A FISHER 53 WALKERTON DR MARKHAM, ON, L3P 1H9 (905) 294-7016

**Mountain City Obedience Club** Brigham QC 05-Sep-2008 to 07-Sep-2008  
Event Secretary NORMA C BRENNAN 95 RUE DE LA PINEDE ST ALPHONSE RODRIGUEZ, QC, J0K 1W0 (450) 883-6828

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### **New Members;**

**Rosie Van Bommel** 17 Tamarac Dr Stouffville Ont. L4A 7X4

**Janice McLeod** 151 Twyn Rivers Dr Pickering Ont. L1V 1E1

**Maureen Smith** 322 McConvey Dr Richmond Hill Ont. L4C 3K3

**Brenda Lundy** RR1 Orangeville Ont. L9W 2Y8

**Wendy Downing** 2 Lotus Court North York Ont. M2H 1J7



## Article Indications

By Mary Thompson (AKC Tracking Judge)

Where has the time gone? I guess with all the snow southern Maine has had this winter, I hibernated, too much snow and ice to do tracking. Now spring has arrived and tracking clinics and tests are being held.

One important topic I would like to cover today. You can have the best tracking dog around but if the dog does NOT indicate an article clearly enough for you to find it, then the dog and you fail the tracking test. The AKC rules state that the dog must indicate the article and you must present it to the judge. IF the dog actively searches for the article and you as the handler cannot find it nor can the judges, the judges may award you the track and the title. In any tracking test, if you get to the article, pick it up and wave it in the air briefly, even if you loose it later as it falls out of your pocket, you may still be able to pass. If the judges are making notes on their maps and do not see you reach down, pick up the article and stuff it in your pocket and it falls out later, they may not allow it as they did not see you pick it up. By waving it in the air briefly, the judges usually look up at such activity! Before you enter a tracking test, you should have had the dog tracking in all kinds of weather and different terrains AND clearly indicating articles.

Some dogs will indicate an article if it is on short grass, others will walk over it unless it smells strongly enough to make the dog hesitate. In a TD, the article must be either a glove or a wallet, preferably made of leather or have leather on it. In a TDX, the articles are to be of a personal nature and all fabric such as scarf, ear warmer, hat, belt, eyeglass case, sock and a glove at the end. In a VST test, the articles are two of fabric – usually 1 leather and 1 cloth and then 1 of plastic and 1 of metal. You should find a variety of items to use when tracking. They should be of hand size and of any material. Porous plastic and metal actually holds more scent then most articles made of cloth! The biggest concern would be that the dog should not get hurt by the article or be able to swallow it! Though I have known of a few dogs who like to swallow large leather work gloves!

I have seen dogs too used to only finding a leather glove at the end of the track refuse to even acknowledge a plastic or metal article. Your dog should be taught that if it smells of the tracklayer, he/she should stop and indicate it.

There are several ways you can do this.

One, you can teach your dog to either Sit or Down at the article. If I have a dog that I want to do this, I will train the dog away from the tracking field as I do not want the dog to get into the obedience mold when he is on the field. Rather, I do this type of training in the house and then outside the house and finally, in the field. I will teach this by having the dog sit or down as soon as he gets close to a tracking article. Since my articles do NOT look or smell like the dog's toys, he will notice that it is out of place and go up to check it out. At that time, I will tell the dog to either sit or down. Once the dog has assumed the position, I will praise him like crazy and reward him with the occasional treat. Once the dog starts to understand to either sit or down when he sees the article, I will take him into the backyard and practice this. I will have already scattered several articles around the yard before I let the dog out and he is on a long line. When the dog stops and checks out the article, I will tell him to either sit or down. As soon as he does, I will move in and reward him. Once the dog understands what to do when he sees an article, it is time to take it to the tracking field and try it. I do not play with the dog with the article. It is against AKC rules and regulations to do so during a test so I do NOT want the dog to look for it to happen during practice. If you play too much with the dog with the article and then get into a test, some dogs will shut down when you do not follow what he considers to be the normal way of tracking i.e.; find an article and play with it. Instead, I will verbally praise the dog lavishly and then tell him to "Find More". That is his command that he is to continue the track and find more articles. Some people like their dog to come back to them and sit, looking for a treat as a reward for finding the article. You can also teach your dog to retrieve the article. Again, start the training off the tracking field!

Food is NOT allowed or used in a certification or a tracking test. If you have a chow hound, he may have to work 2 tracks without food, the certification and the day of the test. You can certainly use food on the practice tracks so he expects to find food in the articles again. If you are in ant country, put the food in a plastic baggie and then in the article or on it. This will keep out the little insects.

Does the dog have to sit, down or retrieve the article in order to pass a tracking test? NO! As long as the dog indicates the article and you pick it up and present it to the judges.

I will NEVER forget my first time judging a tracking test. The other judge and I had a difference of opinion on the very first track. The track was laid in 15-18 inch tall grass so you could see the way the track went. The dog stayed almost exactly on the track and the owner followed. The dog would barely turn his head to indicate a turn, just kept striding along and pulling his owner. At the 4<sup>th</sup> turn, I heard the handler say that it was the fourth turn so the end must be near. The dog walked over the article and continued. The owner had counted 50 yards from the last turn and then started to shuffle his feet. (In TD and TDX, a “leg” of the track must be at least 50 yards between turns). The other judge wanted to pass the dog. I did not as the regulations state that the owner must present the article to the judges. We walked up and located the article. We finally agreed to fail the team. When I talked to the handler afterwards he told me he was going in for cataract surgery in 3 weeks. I asked him why he hadn’t trained his dog to either sit or down at the article and he told me that the dog usually retrieved it. NEVER assume that your dog will sit, down or retrieve the article in a test! You are nervous and you will transmit that to your dog and he may respond differently. As long as you are able to “read” your dog’s body language and know that he has found something, you will pass. A judge cannot ask you how your dog indicates an article (in the USA). If your dog pauses and you assume it is the end of the track, move up and see if there is an article. If there is not, slowly back up a few steps and see if the dog will continue on. You may be totally aware of how many turns you have done and the yardage and think it is the end when it may not be. Most people tell me the whole track was a blur and they don’t remember how many turns or how long it took to do the track.

So practice with a lot of different types of articles, a variety of terrain (grass, taller grass, concrete, gravel, dirt, etc), a different weather conditions. A fair weather tracker rarely passes a tracking test. Remember, always try to have the dog end on a successful note and have fun!

Susan Coutts “Maggie-Mae”  
Indicating the article





May 11, 2008 UTD & TD Tests

