

Summer 2007

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Summer tracking at the field. We've had quite a few people come out on Friday evenings.

One Friday we had seventeen people come out to track and socialize.





We've been lucky with weather on most days. There's always enough shade for everyone.

As you can see, all the vans lined up, we've had a good turnout.



MEMBERS' BRAGS



FC Poppy won the Absolute title on May 20th 2007 in Batavia NY in the Field trial in rabbit trailing. Owned by Pamela Burns

Anne Frost's "Olivia" earned her AM. Championship. June 9th and has 2 legs towards her Cdn CD and 1 towards her Am CD.

"Am /Can. CH. Carfrae Life is a Highway".





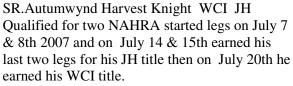
MOTCH Donant Bandit At Luvit Am CDX AGI ADC "Bandit" owned by Ricki Abrams earned his CKC intermediate agility title at The Barrie show Aug 5th and earned his 1st leg of his agility excellent title at the Owen Sound show Aug 7th.



Littermates
Jorja & Brogan
finished their
NAHRA started
title Aug 5th in
Pennsylvania USA



SR.Autumwynd Midnite N Jorja WC JH Qualified for two NAHRA started legs on July 7 & 8th 2007 and on July 14 & 15th earned her last two legs for her JH title Owned by Marie-P.Babin



Owned by Maryke Warwick.



These six year old littermates Marlo & Elliott won the NAHRA Started trophy for the oldest dogs to qualify. This was our first time to enter a NAHRA test. The trophy will spend equal time at both houses.



CH. Castlegar Marlo At Autumwynd CDX WC JH
TD CGN Am CD
Qualified for two NAHRA started legs on July 7 & 8th
2007 and a third on Aug.5th On June 2nd Marlo also
corned two legs in Pally O Navige.

CH. Castlegar Elliott CDX JH WCI TD Am CD.
Qualified for two NAHRA started legs on July 7 & 8th
2007 and on July 20th he earned his WCI title.
On June 2nd Elliott also earned two legs in Rally-O Novice.

Owned by Maryke Warwick.

earned two legs in Rally-O Novice . Owned by Marie-P.Babin.

BRAGS Cont..

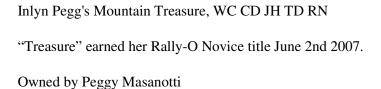


FC Streak von Lowenherz TD, JE (Junior Earthdog) owned by Pamela Burns earned his CD on May 6, 2007



CH. Victory's Bean With The Devil "Dexter"
Owned by Eileen Fisher earned his Championship on June
8th at the Ont. County KC with a Group 4th & Best puppy
in Group.

Dexter also earned his first points in Batavia NY at his first Field Trial for rabbit trailing.







Treasurehunt Touch N Go WC "Terra" owned by Peggy Masanotti earned her WC July 20th, 2007 at the Golden Ret. Club of Greater Toronto.

SR Treasurehunt's Electric Trill, WC owned by Peggy Masanotti earned her NAHRA Started Retriever Title on July 8th, at the Horseshoe Hunting Ret. Club.





Peggy with Treasurehunt's Andromeda WC. "Rommie" earned her working certificate on May 26th, 2007 at the Labrador Owners' Club.
Owned by Peggy Masanotti

Getting started

What do you need to get started? A harness, long line, flags, scent articles, high value treats and a field. This is a sport that requires little in the way of money outlay, at least until you are ready to enter a test. In the beginning, you only need a non-restrictive harness, one that does NOT have a band that come horizontally across the dog's chest. Rather, the straps should come down from the withers, across the top of each shoulder to meet in the front at the dog's point of chest. The first style sometimes hinders the dog's ease of movement. There are inexpensive nylon ones sold in J&B, Cherrybrook, R.C.Steele and other supply catalogs. The double layered nylon harnesses are usually too heavy and awkward for most dogs. The ring to attach the long line is also too far down the dog's back. Over time, this may increase the dog's fatigue and ability to do a longer track over rough terrain. I use a long line of 40 feet. One of 30 feet is sufficient. One of 20 feet is almost not long enough in certain situations. A 50-foot long line is too long. I still like the cotton web line. I have seen people use the single layered nylon with one color for 20 feet and another color for the rest. (At one time, it was an AKC rule that there had to be a visible marker at 20 feet on the long line.) People use mountain climbing rope, tubular nylon, leather, plain rope, etc. Whatever feels right to you and you can handle it well WITHOUT interfering with your dog!

How does one get started? There are as many ways to begin this as there are theories as to how the dog scents. I will tell you the way I currently teach my students. Even though the dogs were successful with the other methods, I felt that we were boring the dogs. It was mainly for the handler's benefit that we went so slowly. Now, more people are doing more with their dogs and I find them to be better handlers and better at reading their dogs. Even if you are a bigger dog owner, outside of walking a straight line, the rest is really simple to do.

You will need to find a fairly flat piece of land where you can walk about 100 yards before getting to the end of the field. ALWAYS get the owners permission before using the land! Once they see flags, they may think someone is on their property doing survey work! Flags, you say, what are those? I use a 3-foot dowel with a piece of fabric 12 inches x 16 inches attached to it. This becomes my flag. You will want to have at least 6 of these. That way you can put out a few tracks at the same time and run them one after the other.

Most important of all, you need to walk a straight line! This is NOT as simple as it sounds. Go to a parking lot or a football or soccer field and try to walk a straight line. You will have a hard time, as you want to watch where you are walking. Try to pick something off in the distance to aim for. Something really noticeable, like a crooked tree, bright red chimney on a house, a white birch tree among pine trees, the corner of a large building. Now walk and keep looking at that aim point. Look at the ground very infrequently. Just glance down, keep looking forward as much as possible. Now you are walking a straighter line than before. Now you are ready to go lay a track for your dog to follow.

You will need at least 8 articles for him to find. They may be cloth items in the beginning. Items such as dirty socks, an old wallet, glove, scarf, belt, etc. Metal and plastic articles also hold scent. Each article should have 2-4 treats of high value in them.

If you are in ant or other insect country, put the treats in a baggie first and then put them in the article.

Now, as to the field and weather conditions. I would prefer to start a dog in grass that is at least 6 inches tall or taller. You want to work the dog either first thing in the morning or any time after 3 PM. The hours between 11am and 2pm, the ultraviolet rays distort the scent and the dog has a harder time doing the track. Not good conditions for beginning dogs! In the south, those times would be increased to 10am to 3pm, especially in the summer. Wind does not matter EXCEPT the direction! I would not put the dog's first few tracks facing into the wind. The wind will come down the track pushing the scent back to the dog and he will want to turn and go back, not forward like he should. Having the wind come across the track is best. Having no wind is better but if you wait for the best grass height, best temperature, best wind conditions, etc, you may never get out with you dog!

With 2 flags and the 8 articles in hand (already "loaded" with treats), pick an aim point and start walking. After 20 normal steps, put one of the flags in the ground. Every 20 - 30 steps thereafter, drop an article. About 20 steps AFTER the last article put the second flag in the ground. This will help you stay in line when you work the dog on the track. The number of steps between articles will depend on the size and age of your dog. Small dogs and puppies of any breed

should have articles close enough to keep their interest but not so close they no sooner start tracking again and they hit another article. You want the dog to want to find the next article and work a little to find it. The multiple articles keep them interested. It also allows you to bail out if the dog is having a tough time at any point in his training. Just get him to the next article, praise him like crazy and walk off. Put the dog up and go back and get the rest of your articles. The old way of having only one article and making the dog persevere until he got to it, even if it was over 200 yards away is in my mind, defeating. The dog loses confidence, he thinks he did something wrong, or he doesn't enjoy it anymore, or he thinks the tracks are only going to get longer and longer as he keeps having to go further each time to find the one article

Let that track "age" for at least 30 minutes and up to an hour. You want the air scent to be gone so the dog follows the scent that is on the ground.

In the beginning, you will want to walk almost beside your dog so you can use a regular 6-ft leash. Please, no flexi leads! They are not allowed in tests and can rip your hand open if you grab them.

Praise the dog enthusiastically when he comes upon an article. Depending on the dog or its age, you have play with the dog and the article. Just remember, you want him to settle back to work and go find the next article! In the beginning, I do not name this event. The dog does not know the word so why use one? Think about what you want to call this. If you use "Go Find" to have Fido find the squeaky toy in the house, then you do NOT want to use that word. To Fido, it means use both eyes and a little of my nose to find that toy. In the field, we want him to use his nose first. You want a word that is not harsh sounding. I once heard a person use the command "Track It" and sound like she wanted to drive a stake through her dog she was so upset with the dog's performance. I will only say the command word once and that is only when the dog is understanding what we are out in the field for and going forward on the track with his head down. Each time we encounter an article, I just say "Find More", meaning there are more articles to locate.

Once the dog has finished the track, remove his harness so he knows he is done. I will do this even if I am going to work the dog on another short track right after the first one. I do not want his head down and sniffing all the way to the next track, he may be picking up the scent of a deer and want to follow that instead!

I find the multiple articles really encourage a dog to continue, be successful and again, it is a way to end the exercise if the dog is having a tough time. The old way of only having one article at the end was not good for some dogs when we started to train them for TDX tracks. In a TD test, there is one article at the end of a track that is 440 to 500 yards long. In a TDX test, there is an article at the first flag, one at the end and two others somewhere along the rest of 800 to 1000 yard track. In practice, a dog would go up to the first flag and say "I found the glove, we must be done!" Only to be encouraged to continue. Quite a few dogs had difficulty with this and it was not because they were poor trackers. However, getting a TD on your dog does not mean that he can do a TDX.

What constitutes a TD, a TDX and a VST I will explain in another article. In the meantime, go have fun with your dog!

Written by AKC Tracking Judge Mary Thompson

F.C.I. Tracking

F.C.I. stands for Federation Cynologique Internationale, and is the World Canine Organisation. It includes 84 member countries that each issue their own pedigrees and train their own judges. The F.C.I. makes sure that the pedigrees and judges are mutually recognized by all the F.C.I. members.

F.C.I. tracking is an international discipline that originates from the German track F.H. (Fârtenhund), and was adapted by the F.C.I. in 1979. The purpose was to have a set of rules common to all countries, in order to hold World Championships. The first F.C.I. World Championship was held in Austria in April 1994, with the participation of 10 countries.

There are three levels: F.C.I. 1, F.C.I. 2 and F.C.I. 3. There are also two initiation levels prior to the F.C.I. 1; they are the Initiation Level 1 and Initiation Level 2.

<u>Initiation F.C.I. Level 1</u>: The minimum age of the dog is 12 months. The track is 400 steps long, and is laid 15 minutes prior to the test. There is one 90 degree angle and two straight lines. There is one scent article located within the 1 m2 scent pad at the start of the track; the dog also has to locate 4 articles on the track. For this level, the dog is worked on a 5 metre long line. Points are awarded on how well the dog located and indicated the articles and also on how well he tracked. A minimum of 70% is needed to pass. Two successful tracks are required in order to go to the next level, Initiation F.C.I. Level 2.

<u>Initiation F.C.I. Level 2</u>: The track is 800 steps long, and is laid 30 minutes prior to the test. There are two 90 degree angles, one 45 degree angle and 4 straight lines. There is one scent article located within the 1 m2 scent pad at the start of the track; the dog also has to locate 4 articles on the track. The judge lays a cross-track on the third straight line, while within sight of the dog, and at no less than 15 metres away from the dog. The handler can have the line at 5 metres or 10 metres. A minimum of 70% is needed to pass, and two successful tracks are required in order to go to the next level, F.C.I.1.

<u>For F.C.I. 1, 2 and 3</u>, the track can be done on a 10 metres long line, or with no line. If no line is used, the dog has to remain 10 metres ahead of the handler. The dogs gets a number of points for the test, depending on how well it followed the track, and on how well it indicated the articles. A minimum of 70% is required to pass. The start of the track is located on an imaginary line between two flags 20 metres apart. A scent article is also located in a 20 X 20 metres square at the start, indicating the direction of the track. The articles can be leather, wood or textile.

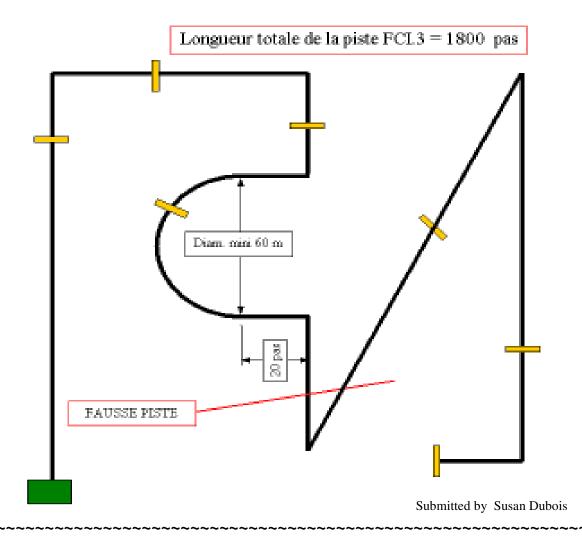
For the <u>F.C.I. 1</u>: The minimum age of the dog is 18 months. The track is 800-1000 steps long, and is laid 90 minutes prior to the test, on variable terrain. There are five 90 degree angles and 5 articles to locate. There is one cross track that is laid 15 minutes prior to the start of the test, and is to be on a straight line, at least 100 metres from the start of the track. As of 2007, a gunshot is fired from 20 steps away, upon presentation of the dog at the start of the test.

<u>FCI 2</u>: The minimum age of the dog is 19 months. The track is 1000-1200 steps long, and is laid 2 hours prior to the test, preferably on variable terrain. There are at least 6 angles, one of which has to be an acute angle. There are 5 articles to locate. There is one cross-track, that crosses the track in two places and is laid a half hour prior to the start of the test; the cross-track has to be at least 100 metres from the start.

<u>FCI 3</u>: The track is about 1800-2000 steps long, is 3 hours old, and has 7 angles: 2 of them acute, and one of them rounded. There are 7 articles to locate, plus one other object that blends in with the terrain. There is one cross-track that crosses the track in two different places and is laid 30 minutes prior to the test. There is a 45 minute time limit to complete the track.

In France, there are two intermediary steps to make it easier for the dogs to progress from one level to the next. Every year in France, there is a National Championship for all breeds where the best dogs compete, and there is also a yearly World Championship for all the best dogs from the National Championship.

Below is an example of an F.C.I. 3 track.



Upcoming CKC Tracking Events

Sept. 16, 2007 Newark Tracking & Training Associates Stevensville Ont. (905) 382-3087

Sept.23, 2007 German Shepherd Dog Club of London Ont. Thorndale Ont. (519) 461-1909

Sept. 29,30, 2007 EPS Training Associates Powassan Ont. (705) 724-2676

Oct. 14, 2007 Cross Country Tracking Club Clarington Ont. (905) 294–7016

Oct. 21, 2007 Newark Tracking & Training Associates Stevensville Ont. (905) 382-3087

Oct. 27-28, 2007 Thunder Bay Kennel & Training Club Inc. Thunder Bay Ont. (807) 475-0210

Nov. 11, 2007 Cross Country Tracking Club Clarington Ont. (905) 294-7016

NAMBR Tracking Test

Nov. 18, 2007 Bowmanville Ont. (905) 723–3798

Gone But Not Forgotten





"Gomez" Nov.30, 1998 - July 20, 2007

CH. Gowrielea's Go Big Or Go Home

Gomez loved tracking. He had one of the best article indications. He always picked up the glove , ran back to Doug , threw it down then enjoyed rolling on it with all four feet in the air .

Loved and missed by Doug & Kim Walford.





Am/Can CH Brantwood's Harmony Of Light Am/Can TD, Am TDX, Am CD, RE, CL1-R, CL2-H, CL1-S, CL1-F, TDI, TPA, VOAA

"Beamer" April 30th 1997- June 8th 2007

Of all the titles that Beamer earned, the title of "my best buddy" was the most important. Beamer's spirit will always be with me. I am so very fortunate that he was part of my life. Be at peace my sweet, sweet dog.

Loved and missed by Kathleen and Richard Dahmer

Arguswebb Agawa Moon Hybs CDX, TD, CGN, CGC, HIT (sheep), HIT (ducks)

She was a remarkable dog, always ready for a new challenge or adventure. It is because of her that Martin and I got involved in so many dog sports. She was also involved in search and rescue, water rescue, agility and other pursuits. She will be missed by the students and staff of West Hill Collegiate since she took part in many of their field trips. She also took part in a great number of public demonstrations highlighting the importance of socialization and obedience training for the Swansea Obedience Club and other organizations. She was always a true ambassador for her breed. Her and I were also members of the Canine Callers, a group of Swansea members who visit retirement homes.

Loved and missed by Cynthia Thomas & Martin Hybs.



"Aggie" August 26, 1997 -July 15, 2007

Racing to Save Lives

ON JUNE 3, 2007, CCTC CLUB MEMBER "STEPHANIE GEOSITS" RAN THE SAN DIEGO ROCK N ROLL MARATHON!

It's hard to imagine that over the course of four months, with incredible support from family and friends, I transformed myself into a MARATHONER!

The experience was incredible and its impact became apparent from the get-go. Standing in line at the gift shop at Pearson Airport last Fri., a man started chatting with me about my Team in Training shirt. It turns out that he is a blood cancer survivor and Fri. was the first time in three years he felt well enough to travel! Later that day I was in line at the expotalking to a TNT participant from Minnesota. She got a call from her husband, who was at home and in remission. He was her reason for running. That's how the weekend started...

During a very emotional Pasta Party on Sat., we heard from our teammate Gill, who three years ago was diagnosed with blood cancer. A mother of three, her best friend Jill had just joined Team in Training and was going to run in the San Diego marathon. Gill was able to join her as a spectator in 2004, but this year, in remission, she ran WITH her!!

This was such an inspiring experience, and it showed what people can do to make things better for those afflicted with cancer and their families.

I ran in memory of my dad. Although he didn't have leukemia, he died of cancer. Cancer is cancer in that it sucks! The families of the patients go through the same feelings of helplessness regardless of where the disease strikes, and I wanted to do something about that. That is why I joined TNT.

Sun. morning came and we were up at 4 am. I ended up finishing the race in 6:13. I likened the journey to what my dad would go through each time he went into New York for chemo. He would board a bus before dawn, ride the two hours into the City and head up to Memorial Sloan Kettering. After his treatment he would ride back home. If he could go through all that and not complain, I could get through a marathon.

And so, at 6:35 am Pacific Time, the gun sounded. I had a fleeting thought of "Oh my God, what am I doing?!" but shortly after crossing the start line, it all started to feel normal. I ran by our hotel and saw my mom out front. We continued through downtown San Diego in splendid temperatures, and my splits were all good. I felt amazing.

There were several inspiring stories. In addition to all of the nearly 4,000 TNT participants from just about everywhere (the Lehigh Valley, Ohio, Maryland, Alaska, Washington, Massachusetts, you name it!) who raised more than \$12.5 million, there were several personal ones who stood out. One man was running to honor his son, a Marine who was killed in Iraq. One woman had lost 140 pounds and was running. Another woman came up to me and told me she was running in memory of her dad, who was also named John.

The experience was phenomenal and I thoroughly enjoyed it. Our coaches, Luis and Stephanie, did an amazing job preparing us. My mentor Randy gave me invaluable tips and in all there were no surprises. I didn't even notice the hill at the 10-mile mark.

Along the way, there were bands, cheerleading squads, and amazing spectators, including cancer survivors and their families. I observed three really cool things about marathons:

- 3 You don't have to obey any traffic signs and you get to run on surfaces that you never would be able to otherwise Like the FREEWAY!
- 2 You can and should litter at will, without any guilt!

3 - It's the only time other than trick-or-treat night that you are actively encouraged and willingly take food from strangers!

The route was incredibly scenic and at no point did I "hit the wall." The most difficult part was around miles 16 and 17 because we were past half way but weren't quite at 20, but that soon changed.

The coaches were staggered along the route and near the finish, after passing Luis, I met up with one of the Montreal coaches who started to run me in. Stephanie soon joined us. I was going full throttle and felt great. They wished me well and I sprinted toward the finish! It was somewhat surreal crossing the line at a US Marine base as "Born in the USA" played on my ipod, holding the flag of my adopted home, but that speaks volumes about me! In 6:13 I completed my first marathon, with not even a blister! My worst ailment was some sunburn where my lotion wore off, but that was it!

Mom was waiting for me 10 feet from the finish line, and Melissa and Peter had camped out to meet me. It was great.

I couldn't have done it without everyone's support - emotional, moral, monetary. THANK YOU! Special thanks to MOM for always being their no matter what my latest endeavor! Thank you to Fatimah for inspiring me to do this and encouraging me all the way (she has her first triathlon this July). Thanks to the Toronto Crew, particularly Cheryl (for the hand-crafted good luck bracelet) and Liza who got me through the months of grueling training, Fab and David for plying me with carbs, Pimps N Oars, the best/worst group of rowers a person could wish for, BLENDER, the bestest band in the world, for their support and sharing their set list, coaches Stephanie and Luis, and everyone who made a contribution, said a prayer, sent positive karma my way, called to see how I did, etc. YOU ARE AWESOME!!! THANKS!!!!!!



Overtraining by Craig Green

Craig Green and his wife Kay have been tracking with basset hounds for more than two decades. Between the two of them they have seventeen TDs and 5 TDXs, most on bassets. Craig has judged about seventy tracking tests in thirteen different states since 1985

I've said this before, but you've got to be very careful not to overtrain a hound. If he thinks tracking is something YOU want him to do, rather than something HE wants to do, you might experience a loss of motivation. This can come from training too often, making him wait too long before tracking, or pushing through an unpleasant experience without rest and relaxation. Remember, the name of the tracking game is M-O-T-I-V-A-T-I-O-N.

Tracking Too Often

When Kay and I trained our first tracking hound with classes full of other, more energetic breeds, we made the mistake of training too often. After the Denver seminar by Glen Johnson in the late seventies, many of us started training every day. What a mistake!

Our first tracking dog soon told us to STUFF IT! He stopped tracking, and gave us dirty looks every time we would go out into the field after tracking the previous day. We quickly learned he didn't want or need to track every day, and soon went back to once a week. Occasionally, with other dogs, we attempted to train more often than once a week, but almost never found a dog where this would produce more positives than negatives (our Border Collie was an exception).

Although we train beginning tracking dogs about three times a week at first, this is just so they get the hang of the activity while it is new and exciting. As soon as they have the basics down, we go to once a week and almost never go back. An exception is after a long layoff, when the dog might enjoy going out a couple of times a week for a couple of weeks, before returning to the once-a-week schedule. If your dog is not hungry and excited about tracking, you're probably going to have motivational problems.

Making the Dog Wait

Recently, I judged a Basset Hound in TDX whose owner called a couple of weeks before the test, concerned that the dog had given up her starts. My wife took this call, and found that the dog had to travel about an hour to the tracking site, and then wait for several more hours while several other dogs tracked. This is the same thing that happened to us when we first started tracking. We worked for a tracking judge teaching a class, and our dogs were always the last to work. Our hounds almost stopped tracking altogether, because it was such a pain for them to sit in a car without attention for several hours, for a few lousy minutes of fun.

At the recent tracking test, the dog came up to the starting flag and looked like she had never tracked before. Then, after a few minutes of fooling around, she got started, made a turn, a crosstrack, and flunked at the next turn. I suggested the dog not be tracked for a while, to try to restore its interest in field work. (I also recommended that the handler not complete the track, since the dog was not having fun). The handler had taken my wife's advice a couple of weeks before the test and stopped tracking the dog except for a couple of short starter tracks. However, it was too little, too late. I think the dog will be fine after a layoff and a new schedule designed to keep her interested and hungry for tracking. The handler was encouraged to stop working in groups where her dog would have to wait to track. I suggest going to the field, tracking, and then doing something fun (like a walk and/or a Dairy Queen).

Pushing Through Unpleasant Experiences

It is fortunate that the dog mentioned above has not been turned off for very long. A friend of mine systematically taught a dog to hate tracking--Forever! She made the mistake of doing the same old thing, repeatedly, even though the dog was getting worse and worse. It's amazing to me that so many people think repeating what doesn't work will magically produce good results in the future. Like I've said before in this series, the best thing you can do when you can't figure out a problem is to quit tracking--at least for a while. In the case of the Basset who recently failed its first TDX, now is an ideal time to do this. It was the last local test for the season, and the next one isn't until next spring. The handler has wisely chosen to rest the dog for a month or two, and then start training again a couple of months before a spring trial. This gives the dog a chance to miss going out in the field, gives the handler a chance to think about what to do differently, and still allows plenty of time to get back up to speed for the next test.

When this dog starts tracking again, every effort should be made to see that she is happy, enthusiastic and stimulated by the whole tracking experience. I recommend short, fun tracks followed by walks in the field off lead. Then, perhaps a trip to Dairy Queen on the way home (more about this next time).

Our first TDX dog lost all motivation, flunking his first TDX trial. We had about a month before another test, and racked our brains to figure out what turned him on. Finally, we decided to put a leather chewie at the end of the track, and sit down for 10 or 15 minutes when he found it so he could completely finish it. The only time he ever tracked again without this special motivation was when he passed his TDX a few weeks later, becoming the breed's first and only Champion UDTX (CH Winnwars Brandywine, UDTX). Brandy taught us more than all the tracking experts who never trained a hound.