

# PrairieLand News

STANDARD SCHNAUZER CLUB

Vol. 24 Issue 6

[www.prairielandssc.org](http://www.prairielandssc.org)

December 2023

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## NEWSLETTER PUBLICATION SCHEDULE

<u>Copy Deadline</u>	<u>Publication Date</u>
February 7	February 15
April 7	April 15
June 7	June 15
August 7	August 15
October 7	October 15
December 7	December 15

## A REMINDER TO ALL MEMBERS:

Please advise our secretary, Lynne Conder, of any changes to your address, phone or e-mail address. We don't want you to miss any of the PrairieLand newsletters!

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR . . . CLUB MEETING DATES FOR 2024

- January 17, 2024
- March 19, 2024
- May 26, 2024 (in conjunction with annual dinner at Specialty)
- July ??, 2024 – annual picnic TBD
- September 18, 2024
- November 23, 2024 (tentative) – Christmas dinner



## NEXT MEETING

Next meeting Wednesday, January 17<sup>th</sup> . . . watch your email for details closer to the date.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Hi Everyone,

We just had our November Christmas meeting. See the minutes in this newsletter to catch up on the club news. Next month we will have the election of new officers.

The 2024 SSCA specialty committee is meeting once a month. I will keep you updated as things become finalized.

Lynne just sent out the AKC alert on the new dog virus going around. It has been identified in this area. This is not a virus to take lightly as it has resulted in fatalities in some dogs.

I hope everyone has a wonderful holiday. It's hard to believe that it is December already.

*Your President,  
Connie Reidner*





## **PSSC MEETING MINUTES 11/18/2023**

The November meeting was held at Penny Duffee and Kathy Koehler's home in Bloomington, IL, Saturday, 11/18/23, at 1:00 pm. Thank you Penny and Kathy for hosting and sharing your beautiful Christmas décor.

- President Connie presided. Attending were: Ron & Connie Reidner, Gwen Kirman, Sharon Talaga, Kathy Koehler, Penny Duffee, Don & Diane Kachur, Darcie and Thomas Mair, Mary Thome, and guest Jennifer Jobe.

**Secretary's Report:** Minutes of the last meeting were accepted as published in the last newsletter. (*Don/Penny*)

**Treasurer's Report:** Kathy Koehler stated she will have a full report at the January meeting after all dues are received.

### **Old business**

- K9 cop project fundraising
  - We're waiting for the tennis balls. There was discussion of where to sell them: pet stores, school district 87, Farmer's Market.
  - Also discussion of maybe selling stuffed canine police dog toys for around \$20.
- McLean Country Sheriff's office is not getting a dog yet.
  - A Go Fund Me page is set up for collecting additional funds for supplies supporting the new K9 officer dog.
  - Funds so far are \$600; goal is \$5,000.

### **New business**

- National Specialty, August 2024, Purina Farms, St. Louis
  - Regional club presidents had a meeting in November with Show Chair Ed Watson.
  - Penny shared a possible show logo; discussion followed with concerns. The logo depicts schnauzers and symbolism to the book "Huckleberry Finn." Some Americans feel this book is racist, so they may object to this logo. Penny will talk to Chair Ed and keep us updated.
  - The National is Saturday, 8/24.
- Health Survey
  - Members are encouraged to complete it.

### **Dues**

- Both PSSC and SSCA are due before the end of the year. Get them mailed!

### **Adjournment**

No further business was conducted after adjournment (*Don*).

Next meeting is Wednesday, January 18, 2023. Details to be announced.

*Submitted by Diane Kachur*



## CHRISTMAS PARTY

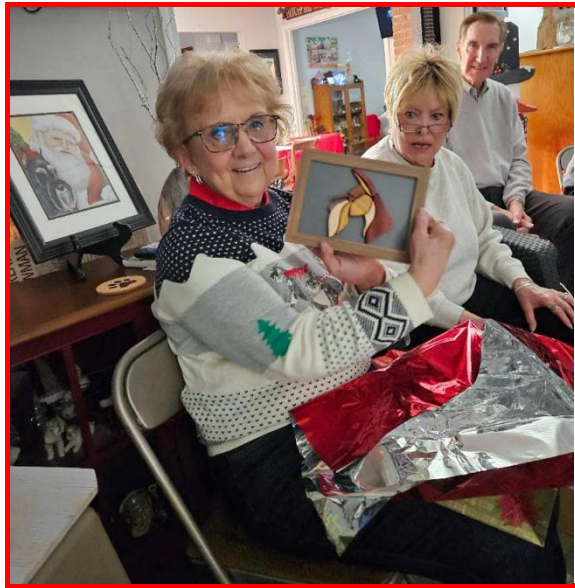
On Saturday, November 18<sup>th</sup> the PSSC annual Christmas party was held at Penny & Kathy's home. We had a great turnout – and as usual everyone brought lots of delicious food!! We were glad to have new member, Mary Thome, join us. People ate so much that by the time we were ready for dessert, everyone was almost too full to indulge much. We were having so much fun visiting and eating that we forgot to take any pictures to share.

Following a brief meeting it was time for the crazy gift exchange. As usual there were a few steals – and lots of teasing and “threats”! In the end everyone ended up with some great gifts – our group is so creative!

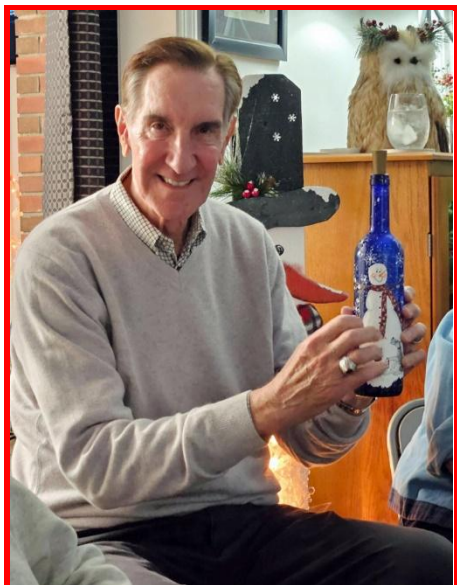
Below are a few pictures from the evening.



Welcome to the party



Diane got a popular gift made by our talented Connie Reidner



Not all empty wine bottles are bad



Mary is in a hurry to see what she chose



What did Ron find in that bag?



Need that pillow for a rest at the end of the party!

## SPECIALTY IN MAY

It will soon be time for our annual specialty! Plan to join us in Bloomington May 24<sup>th</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup>, 2024. There will be 2 days of PSSC supported entries, 1 day supported entries by Heartland SSC and the Specialty on Sunday. FastCAT trials will be held on Saturday & Sunday.

Club members are working on trophies and other plans for the weekend. We had a great entry last year and hope to see a lot of Schnauzer friends join us again this year. The annual dinner will be on Sunday evening – with good food, fun and a great raffle & silent auction (donations welcome!)

Please NOTE: We have a different show superintendent this year – Jack Onofrio Dog Shows LLC [www.onofrio.com](http://www.onofrio.com)

The judges for the weekend are:

Friday – PSSC supported entry – Dr. Gary Sparschu

Saturday – Heartland SSC supported entry – Dr. Eric Liebes

Sunday – PSSC Specialty - Joan Luna Liebes - classes/breed  
- Kent Mayer, Sweepstakes

Monday – PSSC supported entry – Mrs. Pat Jenkins

***Put those dates on your calendar – see you all in Bloomington!!***







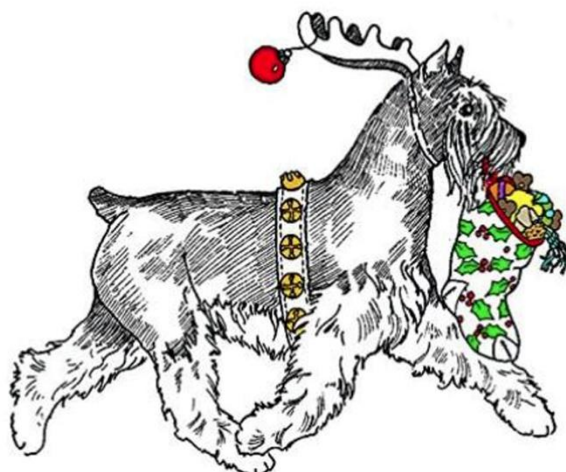
## 2024 SSCA NATIONAL SPECIALTY

The 2024 SSCA National will be held at Purina Farms (MO) next August 21<sup>st</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup>, 2024. This is the first time the National will *not* be hosted by a local club – the Specialty is hosted by the national club. Volunteers from across the country are needed to make the weekend a success. Committees are being formed and plans taking place. All SSCA members are encouraged to step up and volunteer to help with their areas of interest. Ed Watson, from California, is the show chair and can be contacted at [ewatson456@cox.net](mailto:ewatson456@cox.net).

Current plans include conformation, obedience, rally and agility with other activities under consideration. The Giant Schnauzer Club of America is sharing the site with us for the weekend and may be offering FastCAT, scent work and barn hunt.

The website should be up in January – so watch for additional information. It is being done by our long distance PSSC member, Roy Dvorak.

Help is needed in all areas – contact Ed to help ensure your favorite activities maybe a part of the plans for the week.



**Thank you to Judy Houskeeper for forwarding this article that she saw on Facebook:**



I've seen it so many times and those are the breeders who tell you to not be that way but they're completely blind themselves.

What is Kennel Blindness?

Choosing an adult sire/dam to start a breeding program? Keeping a puppy from a litter within your breeding program? Buying a puppy to start a breeding program / kennel? All are important decisions that ultimately will have an impact on the future of your breed of choice and the quality of dog you produce. The term "kennel blindness" refers to a phenomenon at which a breeder is incapable of judging or criticizing his or her own breeding stock and incapable of realizing that a dog within their program should potentially not be bred.

"The breeder, to be successful, must look his dogs. . . not only in the face, but in the body, front and running gear. Even to themselves many breeders will not acknowledge their failure when they fall short of their objective. . . and in an effort to convince others of the perfection of their dogs, [they] convince. . . usually only themselves." K. Onsott

Every breed has a standard. This standard is a guideline and has been put in place with the functionality and temperament of the dog in mind. There is no perfect dog. There is always room for improvement. In order to improve we must first recognize flaws and faults and realize the areas at which we can improve. We can then find a complimentary match for our sire/dam and try to correct those faults and in turn better the breed. Below are some characteristics that may constitute somebody as "kennel blind".

#### Denial

If your dog is consistently not doing well in the show ring, you blame everything BUT the potential that your dog may be flawed. Bad judges, inexperienced judges, show politics/drama/favoritism etc. Those concerns may be legitimate and validated for some of the results however if this is happening on repeated occasions under different judges, different venues, different organizations etc. – perhaps there is a reason for it. That reason is likely that your dog does not fit the standard in one way or another. Instead of placing blame, ask somebody experienced in the breed to evaluate your dog and offer insight. Make sure you accept the potential criticism with an open mind.

#### Jealousy

The inability to see and appreciate the better qualities in your competitors dogs. If you find yourself only pointing out negative qualities in your competition but never in your own stock, you may be "kennel blind". Next time you see another breeder with your breed of choice, take a moment to appreciate the good qualities that you notice instead of focusing on the bad ones. This could even act as a learning experience to compare and decide where you can potentially improve. Don't be jealous if you feel they have better quality dogs than you. Use that as a motivator to improve the quality of your program.

## Perfection

Believing your dog is perfect and cannot be improved upon. Such a specimen doesn't exist. Even what someone may consider the best in their kennel or the best dog of their breed (historically or currently), there will still be something that can improve. Whether that's conformation, esthetics, movement, temperament etc. There is no such thing as a perfect dog so if that's what you're flaunting you need to sit down and have a serious conversation with yourself and with your breed standard.

Nowadays with social media in the hot seat, it seems everybody thinks they have the top dog, the best dog or the perfect dog of their breed. Don't get me wrong, we all have the ability to consider our dogs "the best" or "perfect" but from an owner standpoint, not from a breeder standpoint. Hype up your dogs using fire and gorilla emojis does not validate their quality and confirm they are a good specimen to breed. Refer to my "Purebred VS Wellbred" blog for more on that here

Those who may be more susceptible to being "Kennel Blind":

## Small Kennels

If you only have a small selection of dogs to use and you are not working with an outside mentor or breeder (you buy a male and a female in hopes to breed them). When you don't have much to choose from you may not be able or choose not to acknowledge the issues in front of you.

## Ego

You hype up your dogs or a certain dog so much that when or if you notice an issue your ego gets in the way and you can't admit it. You may get worried about your reputation or what other people think when you announce that said dog will not be bred or said dog is being removed from your program. In actuality this should make you look more favorable as a breeder who is genuinely paying attention and caring about the future and preservation of the breed.

## Lack Of Knowledge

Perhaps you purchased a breed without researching or knowing much about it. Perhaps you purchased a sub-par puppy/dog from a non-reputable breeder. Perhaps you purchased a puppy/dog whose temperament is not favorable for the breed. If you don't know any better than you more than likely will not see the problems in front of you. That may make you "kennel blind" but that can be corrected if you educate yourself ahead of time. Do the research and the work to find quality dogs before you start your journey into becoming a breeder and starting a kennel.

## Income

If you are relying on your litters as primary income or you potentially don't have additional income / are in financial distress, that may affect your objectivity. You may either realize that your dog is not of breeding quality but not have the financial ability to replace it, or you don't realize at all because all you see are dollar signs. This circles back to your goal as a breeder and the purpose behind why you're breeding. If you open your eyes to your breed history and breed standard, you're less likely to run into kennel blindness.

How about those that are \* not \* kennel blind? These are some characteristics of breeders who do not possess this quality:



- Rarely satisfied with their dogs. Always nit picking, criticizing their own dogs flaws and faults more than others would. Well aware of where they can improve and striving to do so.
- Extremely picky when choosing new stock / new puppies to add to their program.
- Happy to appreciate and acknowledge a nice specimen within their breed, regardless of who owns it.
- Ready and willing to remove a dog from their program and possibly even restarting from the ground up when realizing the specimen(s) they have may not be the best quality or have questions or doubts about where they purchased the dog from.

So how can we correct kennel blindness if we come to terms with this being our reality?

- Try to remember to keep the focus on the whole dog. Many breeders like to focus on one particular trait that they may become “blind” to other faults that may be arising. For example if you are a stickler for bone but don’t realize that your angulation and topline are going out of whack. We can absolutely breed and look for dogs that excel in our ideal qualities but we can’t lose sight of the whole package. Be careful not to deviate too far out of your standard or you may compromise structure and functionality.
- Ask for help. If you can find a breeder (one who is not kennel blind themselves and who is familiar with the breed standard) and have them do an honest evaluation of your dogs strengths and weaknesses. Accept the critique and keep an open mind. Don’t get defensive. Use it as education and value their opinion. You can ask several breeders and gather the collective critique.
- Be honest with yourself.

Kelly McIntosh  
Feb. 18, 2021





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Timothy Thomas  
Vice President  
Conformation

### Precautions Regarding Canine Upper Respiratory Illness

There are a lot of unknowns about this newest canine illness. We should all do our best to work to avoid the spread of this disease by following these basic recommendations:

- Keep your dog up to date on vaccines including but not limited to Bordetella, Parainfluenza, and Canine Influenza, and avoid direct contact with other dogs.
- If your dog has been exposed to a dog with an upper respiratory illness, but is showing no symptoms, it is recommended you quarantine your dog for a minimum of 2 weeks. Do not take it to any areas where other dogs will be.
- If your dog has been exposed to a dog with an upper respiratory illness, and is showing symptoms, it is recommended you quarantine your dog for a minimum of 4 weeks after all symptoms have passed. Do not take it to any areas where other dogs will be.
- Absolutely do not take your dog to any events if it is showing any signs of respiratory illness such as coughing, sneezing, wheezing, any nasal discharge, lack of energy, or difficulty breathing.
- Avoid sharing water and food bowls among dogs. Dog bowls should be washed regularly.
- Regularly wash or sanitize your hands, especially after handling dogs.
- If in doubt, speak to your veterinarian.

While judging guidelines *recommend that judges ask the exhibitor to display the oral exam*, during this time and out of an abundance of caution, **judges are expected to have the exhibitor display the oral exam and may personally examine the mouth ONLY if absolutely necessary**. Where applicable, judges must conduct thumb exams.

If necessary to personally examine the mouth, the judge **MUST sanitize their hands after examining the dog**, and as a general practice, are strongly encouraged to sanitize their hands after examining each entry. Re-examining of dogs should be minimized.

Clubs hosting conformation events should provide hand sanitizer/wipes for judges and stewards to use between dogs. Equipment used to measure and/or weigh dogs should be sanitized before and after each use.

Responsible actions by exhibitors, judges, and clubs are necessary to minimize any risks to our dogs. We thank everyone for their thoughtful cooperation and diligence in taking these extra measures.

Sincerely,  
Tim Thomas

VP of Conformation  
The American Kennel Club, Inc.

Founded in 1884; a not-for-profit corporation

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### **Canine Flu 2023 - Upper Respiratory Illness**

There are a lot of unknowns about this newest canine illness. We should all do our best to work to avoid the spread of this disease by following some basic recommendations:

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- If your dog has been exposed to a dog with an upper respiratory illness, and is showing symptoms, it is recommended you quarantine that dog for a minimum of 4 weeks after all symptoms have passed. Do not take it to any areas where other dogs will be.
- Absolutely do not take your dog to any events if it is showing signs of respiratory illness such as coughing, sneezing, wheezing, any nasal discharge, lack of energy, or difficulty breathing.

Out of an abundance of caution, for Obedience events, clubs should provide hand wipes for judges and stewards to use between dogs. Stewards may wear gloves to handle individual dog equipment including dumbbells, gloves, and scent articles.

Sincerely,

Diane Schultz

Director of Obedience, Rally & Tracking

American Kennel Club. | 101 Park Avenue, New York, NY 10178

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Thank you Don Kachur for submitting these. . .

### **Does a dog lick you because they love you?**

Generally speaking, a dog will only lick you if they feel safe in doing so. Dogs lick EVERYTHING for many different reasons, but when it comes to contact with humans, or any other animal, a dog will not venture to lick unless they feel completely safe in doing so.

Of course the more a dog gets to know their owner, and if the owner is the kind of owner that invites the dog to be affectionate, then most certainly that dog will lick you because he/she feels a bond with you, and they feel safe enough to lick you and show their affection for you.

However, their reasons for licking you can vary. Sometimes it's because they want to show their love (as this is one of the only ways a dog can physically show affection), sometimes it's because you taste good, maybe a little sweaty (and therefore salty), or because you have come into contact with something that tastes nice and the dog has sniffed it out and is licking it off your skin.

Regardless, when it's all said-and-done, dogs will only lick what they feel safe licking. So, you can be sure that if a dog is licking you, it's because they feel that you are not going to harm them, and perhaps, will even reward them for their licks...and maybe just because they appreciate you and want to show their appreciation for you, something we humans often refer to as love.

### **When I walk my dogs twice in one day, do they believe it is a different day or are they aware it is still the same day?**

Dogs understand the time of day and their orientation to it very clearly. You may note that the dog is a precise time-keeper. For example, he will be aware of the time you return from work daily, and will have positioned himself to greet you approximately 15 minutes ahead of time. He also is aware of your time to rise in the morning. My son's shepherd pup sings along with the alarm song every morning at about 5 am. On weekends, when the alarm is not set, he nevertheless supplies the song himself immediately at 5 am. So, of course the dogs know what day it is and how often they have been walked. They are hoping you are confused about time and will walk them more frequently than usual.

### **Why do dogs sometimes lay on top of your feet?**

By Karen Mcardle who lives in Edinburgh, UK

My dog is a habitual leaner. He is not allowed up on the furniture - although he will sneak onto the couch when we're not around (don't worry, he's spoiled with a dog bed in nearly every room of the house) - so quite often when we are seated it is simply him seeking attention. However, he also leans when we are standing, and will also do it with non-family members who he is comfortable with or likes. He has nearly taken us all out at the knees many times - like when we are standing at the stove cooking and he comes up behind you for one of his leans. I believe he finds it comforting and reassuring but also allows him to know where his "pack members" are while keeping guard or lookout. "I got your back buddy!" This is a trained hunting dog who is about 28" at the shoulder and 60 lbs of solid muscle - a relentless machine in the bush, but a big suck in the house and around people in general. I think the short answer really is that dogs sit on your feet (or lean) because they enjoy the physical contact and honestly, just because they like you.

## G R E A T   B I G   HAPPY BIRTHDAY WISHES go out to



Happy Birthday wishes to:

**Dick Houskeeper – January 7**  
**Lynne Conder – January 23**

**Alexis Hubbard – February 17**

If you failed to include your birthday with your renewal, please drop an email to Kathy Koehler [KatonSS1@fontier.com](mailto:KatonSS1@fontier.com) so she can add you to the list.



### SCHNAUZER TALES



This is your chance to share “tales” about your Schnauzer – show ring wins, performance wins and titles, or any other accomplishments or news that you want everyone to know about. Send e-mails (pictures welcome too!) to our editor, Kathi, [himeldad@aol.com](mailto:himeldad@aol.com) for the upcoming issues!! Remember to e-mail things as they happen. . .don’t wait for the deadline and then forget. We love reading about your Schnauzers!

***What have you been up to??????????***



*Stay Healthy. . . Stay Pawsitive*



**Gwen Kirman writes. . .**



GCH CH Katon's Flying Tiger V Morgenwald, aka: Ace

Traveled to Grayslake, IL to attend the Kenosha KC Show,  
Friday Oct 20, 2023

Judge: Karen McFarlane, awarded Ace, Select Dog, BOB OH, and OH Group 4

Skokie Valley KC (1)

Saturday Oct 21, 2023

Judge Ms Marjorie Martorella awarded Ace, Select Dog, BOB OH

Judge Dr. Albert Bianchi awarded Ace, OH Group 3

Also Ace ran in Fast Cat receiving a Qualifying Score

Skokie Valley KC (2)

Sunday Oct 22, 2023

Judge: Mr. Garry Newton awarded Ace, Select Dog, BOB OH

Judge: Mr. Desmond J Murphy awarded Ace, OH Group 1

What a Busy Fun Weekend!!

Breeders: Kathy Koehler, Penny Duffee, Connie Reider

Owner: Gwen Kirman



## Penny Duffee writes. . .

The end of October HatEE (CH Katon's Hats off to Tiger v Morgenwald BCAT) and CessEE (Morgenwald's Recipe for Success v Katon) joined some of their family members at the shows in Grayslake IL for a fun weekend!

HatEE was BOB on Friday to finish her Grand Championship – and added more Grand points by going BOS the other 2 days. She also ran 4 FastCAT trials to add more points toward her next title. Her top speed was 22.096 mph.

CessEE couldn't play in the conformation ring because she was wearing just her underwear. . . left that job to her brother, Dodger. She had never seen a FastCAT trial – but watched the first runs of the day with GREAT enthusiasm!! She proved she has what it takes by running even better than her Aunt HatEE – her top speed was 25.745 mph . So she is well on her way to her first title. In the November rankings she was ranked #10. Too bad the FastCAT trials are pretty much over for our part of the country until spring.

Sky (GCH CH Morgenwald's Reach for the Sky v Katon CGC-A, FDC ) reported on her long list of wins in California, including 14 straight BOB's and several Group placements including a Group 1 – resulting in her Grand CH title and her 2 Canine Good Citizen titles and her Farm Dog title.

## Mary Thome writes. . .

Dodger (Morgenwald's Rhythm of the City V Katon) got his first win (and a major!) on October 21<sup>st</sup> in Greyslake at the Skokie Valley Kennel Club. He was Best of Winners and earned his first 3 points. It was only Dodger's 3<sup>rd</sup> show and Mary's second so we're very proud.

On the same day he ran his fastest FastCat time so far, sprinting 100 yards in 8.461 seconds averaging 24.175 mph! What a weekend!



## Lynne Conder writes. . .

Mac (Himmlisch Maximum High Time Together) passed his nose work NACSW ORT (Odor Recognition Test) November 18 in Kingston, IL.

The ORT is to proof his recognition of Birch, Anise and Clove. He did a super job going straight to the anise in the anise search. NACSW first requires passing an ORT, so Mac can now enter other NACSW trials. We'll probably start with some ESTs (Element Specialty Trials) in the spring.

Mr. Mac also had a great time on November 25 at Kudos for Canines C-Wags nose work trial going 6 for 6! He's now added extra Q's toward his ACEs in 3 levels.

I'm so proud of his working attitude and enthusiasm. The judge said "he was working & on the clock." I look forward to what he will accomplish on his sniffing journey...



*Mac resting in the car between searches. He is a great, laid-back traveler. We had a fun day hanging out together.*

From our home to yours. . .

