



GRKC

Grand Rapids Kennel Club

The Hairy • The Official Newsletter of the Grand Rapids Kennel Club

SEPTEMBER 2010

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Website

Nori Goodhue
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Monthly Meetings

Tuesday, September 28th

Tuesday, October 26th

Tuesday, November 23rd

2011

January 25th - February 22nd

March 22nd - April 26th - May 24th

Monthly meetings are held at

Cascade Animal Hospital

6730 Cascade Road SE

Grand Rapids 49456

7:30 PM

Upcoming Event

Grand Rapids Kennel Club Show

Sunday, November 14th, 2010

Big Thanks goes to Clare Lodenstein and Pat Kronemeyer for all their efforts in making the club picnic and the Meijer's Garden Outing a wonderful time.

Do have any new champions? New performance titles? Why not add them to fall catalog? This is a great time to send your list of living titled dogs for the upcoming show catalog. Remember to send your updates to Pat Kronemeyer.

As Autumn approaches, the West Michigan Harvest Cluster at the Delta Plex is only two months away. GRKC show is on November 14th. Hopefully many members will be able to help out. Mark your calendar.

Don't forget to turn in your catalog ads to Marjorie Straub ASAP. It is a wonderful way to show off your dogs to the people in the Grand Rapids area.

Contact Nori Goodhue for your ideas or photos for the club's website.



www.grandrapidskennelclub.org

**Grand Rapids Kennel Club
General Membership Meeting**

May 18, 2010

The meeting was called to order at 7:43 PM by Vice-President Kevin Nieboer.

Members present: Kevin Nieboer, Len Podleski, Mike Lovett, Sandee Lovett, Pat Kronemeyer, Joe Gogulski, Delberta Gogulski, Marjorie Straub, Mary Johnson, Stephanie DeGraaf and Lin Beenen

Guests present: Chris Musson, Diane Black, Georgia Bowen and Ann Carter

The April minutes were approved as printed in the May *Hairy*. (motion Pat, second Len, unanimous).

The treasurer's report was accepted as printed in the May *Hairy* (motion Marjorie, second Sandee, unanimous)

Correspondence: Sandee reported that we received a letter from AKC offering our club the opportunity to become a member of the AKC K-9 Health Foundation for \$200 per year. For this, we would receive a banner, recognition on the AKC website, up to ten copies of their newsletter, and knowing that we are helping dogs live longer and happier lives.

Show Committee: Pat reported that we had to do some judge changes due to overflows. Len mentioned that we may need to hire some professional stewards in order to cover all our rings.

If you have any trophies for the November show, contact Marge Straub with the details before July 1 so it can be listed in the premium list.

Dog Days: We are still getting more vendors; Aspen Lakes Apartments will sponsor the event, and we also have another pet company that is considering it. Everything is coming together, but we still need workers to help with set up, the entry table and with the parade of breeds. We also need help with a "stuffing party" where we will put together 500 bags to give away. Give Pat a call if you can help.

Old Business:

Protect MI Dogs: We had a successful "kick off" on April 28, 2010 in Lansing. One of the speakers was Lt. Governor John Cherry. John has shown in

conformation and obedience. The top dog in the country, a Smooth Fox Terrier owned by Amy Booth was there, as well as a representative from each group. Many Michigan senators and representatives stopped by.

Cindy Cooke and Kevin have been speaking at Michigan kennel clubs seeking contributions to the organization.

New Business:

The club picnic and puppy match will be on Tuesday, June 22 at Dwight Lydell Park.

Suggestions for our August activity included taking in a Whitecaps game or visiting the Meijer Gardens.

The board will discuss contributing to the Canine Health Foundation at their next meeting.

Guests present: Ann Carter and Georgia Bowen (first meeting); Chris Musson and Diane Black (second meeting). Welcome!

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 PM (motion Pat K, unanimous).

Respectfully submitted,

Lin Beenen

Recording Secretary

**New Policy for GRKC Members
Showing Dogs at Our Show**

In the interest of good sportsmanship, no Conformation Champion of Record or Obedience Champion of Record, owned by a member of the Grand Rapids Kennel Club or a member's immediate family will be shown at these events. In addition, no member of the Event Committee nor anyone in their immediate family shall handle a dog at these events.

Grand Rapids Kennel Club

Board of Directors

June 14, 2010

The meeting was called to order at 7:55 PM by President Clare Lodenstein. Also present: Sandee Lovett, Kevin Nieboer, Pat DenBoer, Pat Kronemeyer, Len Podleski and Lin Beenen.

The minutes from the March 2, 2010 meeting were approved as printed in the April *Hairy*.

Treasurer Pat Kronemeyer reported that we sent a check to Kelly Cawthorne (for *Protect MI Dogs*) for \$1,715. This money came from the \$1 per entry from our May show.

Correspondence: Sandee reported that we received the following:

1. E-mail from Jim Crowley at AKC re the Grand Champion title and the first dog to earn it. Other new titles: Beginner Novice and Earth Dog Endurance. Parent clubs can now record other event titles even if AKC does not.
2. The Sun Dog Training Facility in Romeo invited us to participate in an obedience and agility event called "O'Gility" on July 10, 2010.
3. A brochure from the Veterinary Dental Specialists in Grass Lake.
4. A letter from NAIA (National Animal Interest Alliance) requesting donations.
5. A letter from the Canine Health Foundation requesting donations.

Show Committee: Pat D. reported that our May show went well; she suggested a minimum age for taking the wheel of club provided golf carts. The caterer did a great job. For future shows, we will have an EMT on site on the day of our show (motion Kevin, second Sandee, unanimous)

Len read a letter from Sharron Podleski which made many suggestions for improving obedience at our shows. The letter has been sent to the Obedience Chairperson, Jan Hamming. One of the issues was that nothing was offered for High in Trial. This was an oversight by the committee and trophies will be offered at future shows.

Dog Days - Pat D. reported that we had another successful Dog Day event. A large amount of pet

food was donated to the Humane Society. Lure coursing was expensive but was a crowd pleaser, and the 4-H'ers seemed to have a good time. Pat Franckowiak from the Grand Rapids Agility Club did a great job of her demo - she made it into a teaching experience. We had two sponsors, and they are both expected to come back next year. We will also see if we can find several businesses to donate to hospitality bags next year.

Club Picnic - Our picnic will be on June 22 at Dwight Lydell Park in Comstock Park. Clare will bring pulled pork and chicken. Kevin will supply pop and ice; he will also bring rope and stakes to make our ring for the puppy competition with our mystery judge.

New Business - A new policy for GRKC members showing dogs at our show was approved (subject to approval by MBF) - (motion Kevin, second Pat K, unanimous):

In the interest of good sportsmanship, no Conformation Champion of Record or Obedience Champion of Record, owned by a member of the Grand Rapids Kennel Club or a member's immediate family will be shown at these events. In addition, no member of the Event Committee nor anyone in their immediate family shall handle a dog at these events.

We will join the Canine Health Foundation for a \$200 contribution. (motion Lin, second Kevin, unanimous).

We will donate \$1,000 to NAIA. Of this, \$500 will go to the charitable section for education, and \$500 will go to the trust organized for lobbying purposes. (motion Pat K. second Kevin, unanimous).

Summer activity - We will spend an evening at the Meijer Gardens. Included will be dinner, a tram ride, and a concert. (The garden has free concerts on Tuesdays) - (motion Lin, second Pat K, unanimous).

Kevin made the motion to adjourn at 9:52 PM. Passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Lin Beenen

Recording secretary



Issue Analysis: Why Mandatory Spay/Neuter Laws are Ineffective

No dog should ever go unloved or unwanted. Stories of dogs being relinquished to shelters break the hearts of every dog lover.

These issues are the result of a variety of causes. National research organizations have reported that the majority of unwanted dogs in the United States come from owners who are unable or unwilling to train, socialize, and care for their dogs.

As part of encouraging responsible dog ownership, the American Kennel Club (AKC) urges pet owners to spay and neuter their dogs if they do not want to participate in AKC dog shows or performance events or use them in a responsible breeding program. The AKC supports public education programs that teach future pet-buyers and help current

mandatory sterilization policies.

Identifying the Problem

Although MSN may sound like a logical solution to the problem of unwanted dogs, they only address a symptom of the problem. A truly effective solution will require addressing this larger issue.

National studies and anecdotal experiences of shelters across the country demonstrate that economics also plays a significant role in animal relinquishment. Unemployment, tighter budgets, and other monetary concerns including unexpected relocation all contribute to families to giving up pets.

As communities recognize that there are irresponsible dog owners who do not properly train their dogs and who allow

basic animal control laws they are already tasked with enforcing.

Many communities that enact MSN laws find that enforcement can be expensive. A mandatory spay/neuter law enacted in Dallas, Texas, in 2008 resulted in a 22 percent increase in animal control expenditures, as well as an overall decrease in licensing projected to reduce revenue by \$400,000. The City of Santa Cruz, California, experienced a 56% cost increase over the first 12 years of implementation. The City of Los Angeles' budget ballooned from \$6.7 million to \$18 million following implementation. Similar increases in animal control costs following the establishment of mandatory spay/neuter laws have been experienced in communities

“Nearly one in every two families in the United States has a dog, generating a significant demand for well-bred puppies.”



BULLDOG - ISABELLE FRANCAIS FOR AKC

dog owners understand the great responsibility that comes with dog ownership.

Some policymakers and groups assert that the solution is mandatory spay/neuter (MSN) laws. The AKC disagrees. Unlike voluntary programs, mandatory spay/neuter laws have proven to be ineffective. Numerous studies have found they result in significant cost increases and many other unintended consequences for responsible dog owners, local shelters, and the community at large – *without addressing the real underlying issue of irresponsible dog ownership.*

For these reasons, the American Kennel Club is joined by numerous organizations including the American Veterinary Medical Association, the National Animal Interest Alliance, and the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals in opposing

their dogs to roam or otherwise create a nuisance, it becomes increasingly evident that most problems stem from owner irresponsibility. Mandatory spay/neuter laws will not address these problems; however, they will punish law-abiding citizens who wish to keep an intact animal, while those who already neglect their responsibilities will likely continue that behavior.

Unintended Consequences

Mandatory spay/neuter laws also have a tendency to create problems for communities because they are very difficult to enforce and can be easily evaded by avoiding dog licensing.

MSN laws also greatly increase the workload for animal control officers, who must now also verify the sterilization of residents' pets in addition to the

throughout the country from Colorado to North Carolina to Washington.

Mandatory spay/neuter policies prove expensive for the public as well. When these laws are established, many cities find that their publicly-funded low-cost spay/neuter programs cannot meet the demand, which forces dog owners to pay full price for the procedure. This can be a huge financial burden for low-income dog owners, who may ultimately be forced to choose between harboring an illegal unsterilized dog and turning it over to a shelter because they cannot afford the procedure.

Unintended broader public health and safety consequences should also be considered. The American Veterinary Medical Association's "Dog and Cat Population Control" policy notes that the mandatory nature of these laws may

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result in pet owners avoiding rabies vaccinations and other general veterinary care in order to hide their lack of compliance.

Another disturbing trend arises when these laws prevent responsible breeders from being able to breed and raise quality family pets. Nearly one out of every two families in the United States has a dog. This generates a significant demand for well-bred puppies. Responsible breeders are committed to raising healthy purebred dogs and provide the opportunity for local residents to purchase a quality dog from an expert in the breed who is also knowledgeable about the needs, temperament, and background of the puppy offered for sale. These breeders help potential new owners understand the breed and ensure that a prospective buyer is a good lifestyle fit with the new puppy.

If responsible breeders are forced out of business, those who wish to purchase a purebred dog are forced to seek other avenues. This may include buying puppies over the Internet, where the dogs may be imported from countries with fewer health and safety standards than the United States. Anecdotal evidence has shown a significant increase in the number of dogs being transported into the country, with little to no veterinary oversight and care before the dogs are given to the new owners. A number of these dogs have become seriously ill with diseases such as rabies that are dangerous to both the dog and humans.

Why Exemptions Aren't Enough

Sometimes, instead of an outright spay/neuter mandate, lawmakers will opt to enact laws with stricter regulations on those who choose to not sterilize their dogs. Intact animal permits and differential licensing require those who choose not to sterilize their dogs to obtain a license that is often significantly more expensive than those for sterilized dogs. Some communities do not require licenses unless a dog is intact. Other policies provide exemptions for owners whose dogs are listed with a nationally-recognized registry.

These policies, including exemptions,

punish responsible dog owners simply because they choose to own an intact dog. Responsible dog breeders and owners have a right to own an intact dog if they so choose without being subject to regulations beyond those of other dog owners.



SOFT COATED WEIMARANER TERRIER - MARY BLOOM © AKC

“Public education about responsible dog ownership improves public safety, reduces economic burdens on a community, and preserves the rights of dog owners – all while helping dog owners learn how to care for their pets.”

The AKC encourages dog owners to sterilize their pets unless they wish to participate in responsible breeding programs, performance events, or AKC conformation dog shows. As conformation shows are ultimately designed to judge the quality of breeding stock, all dogs entered into these events must be intact. Mandatory spay/neuter defeats the whole purpose of traditional dog shows!

Some laws offer exemptions to MSN policies for “show dogs”. However, this exemption misses the point that spaying/neutering should be an individual decision made by an owner, not forced by the state. It is also very difficult to prove whether or not a dog is being kept for exhibition. Some mandatory spay/neuter schemes require a dog to be shown at least once a year in order to be exempted from the sterilization policies, but not all breeders show all their dogs every year. In addition, many breeders choose to breed their female show dogs after they have finished showing them to their championships. Other owners may choose to see how a dog develops before making a decision about whether to show

the dog. There are many valid reasons for an exhibitor not to show a dog every year, and this choice should be respected.

What's the Solution?

Targeting the issue of irresponsible ownership is the best solution for addressing dog-related issues in a community. This begins with gathering data about the extent and nature of a possible problem in a community. Does the community have reliable statistics on unowned or unwanted animal populations? Does the community currently have comprehensive animal control statutes to address at-large dogs, nuisance dogs, and stray animals? If so, how are they enforced?

Does enforcement include appropriate fines and penalties? Does the community need additional support to enforce these laws? If existing laws are not being followed or enforced, then adding more laws will not improve the situation. Communities may also want to consider encouraging private organizations to provide/subsidize low-cost

spay/neuter clinics to help give low-income individuals the opportunity to sterilize their dogs if they wish.

One of the most effective ways to ensure compliance is through strong public education programs. These programs cover the basics of responsible dog ownership and local dog laws. The American Kennel Club has a wealth of materials to help shelters, community organizations, schools, and other public organizations educate the public about responsible dog ownership. The AKC also provides resources through thousands of local kennel clubs, located in all 50 states, who are willing to assist local leaders in designing and implementing positive canine education programs.

Addressing irresponsible dog ownership through strict enforcement of animal control laws and strong public education programs are effective and cost-efficient ways to address animal control issues. Public education about responsible dog ownership improves public safety, reduces economic burdens on a community, and preserves the rights of responsible caring dog owners – all while helping dog owners learn how to care for their pets.

Grand Rapids Kennel Club Board of Directors

August 31, 2010

The meeting was called to order at 7:45 by President Clare Lodenstein.

Present: Clare Lodenstein, Pat Kronemeyer, Len Podleski, Pat DenBoer, Kevin Nieboer, Sandee Lovett, and Lin Beenen

Minutes from June 14, 2010 meeting were approved as presented by the secretary (motion Kevin, second Len, unanimous).

Treasurer's report: The treasurer's report was accepted as presented by Pat K. (motion, Sandee, second Pat D, unanimous).

Correspondence: Sandee reported that we received the following::

1. A thank you note from Ellen Hizer for the plant we sent. Ellen had broken her leg.
2. A certificate of appreciation from the US Police K-9 Association for our donation of \$100; they also sent a thank you note.
3. A flyer from the Muskegon Kennel Club about their match on September 19, 2010.

Show Committee: Pat K. reported that our premium list is now being proofed; everything is all set for the November show. Pat D. mentioned that we hope to have a raffle at our show - she has a crate and a movie camera so far, and is looking for other new items to add to the crate.

Guest Delberta Gogulski presented ideas on a different way to organize a kennel club. She used the examples of Muncie and Delaware; these clubs have an auxiliary club within their club. The auxiliary has separate dues and separate activities such as educational trips; these activities are funded by using a portion of the net income from their AKC shows. Thank you, Delberta! It is always interesting to learn about other clubs. (Len had to leave the meeting at 8:45 PM.)

Suggestions for the nominating committee are:

Tab Waterman, chair
Nori Goodhue
Len Podleski
Alice Frazier, alternate
Kay Janus, alternate

The secretary will contact the above members to request they serve on the committee.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:02 PM (motion Lin, for: Clare, Pat K, Pat D, Sandee, Lin; abstain: Kevin).

Respectfully submitted,

Lin Beenen

Recording Secretary

Mosquito Kill Alternative

Pass this on to anyone who likes sitting out in the evening or when they're having a cook out. So you don't like those pesky mosquitoes, especially now that they have the potential to carry the West Nile Virus? Here's a tip that was given at a recent gardening forum.

Put some water in a white dinner plate and add a couple drops of Lemon Fresh Joy dish detergent. Set the dish on your porch, patio, or other outdoor area. Not sure what attracts them, the lemon smell, the white plate color, or what, but mosquitoes flock to it, and drop dead shortly after drinking the Lemon Fresh Joy/water mixture, and usually within about 10 feet of the plate.

Check this out---it works just super! May seem trivial, but it may help control mosquitoes around your home, especially in the Southern Michigan and elsewhere where the West Nile virus is reaching epidemic proportions in mosquitoes, birds, and humans. Pass it along..