

DOG TALK

The official *unofficial* newsletter for FEMA dog handlers

August 2005

VOLUME 8 / NUMBER 3

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Training Review MO-TF1 FEMA Type I & II Training July 2005

I was really, really pleased with the Test Preparation in Columbia, MO. It was an impressive gathering of very experienced and knowledgeable instructors of disaster search dogs. I felt very privileged to have such intense - often two instructors at a time helping me - assistance from quality trainers.

The format of having the pre-test first and troubleshooting potential problems and then debriefing on each teams' needs and addressing them in the afternoon session of training was just right. I kept thinking, "what if I had had this same problem on a real test". I would have gone home deflated, with no chance to work on it and fix it before the trip home. That is not only disheartening to the handler, but very detrimental to the canine. It was such a relief to see progress before leaving and having a plan to continue with that success at home. The chance to network and brainstorm on problem solving techniques is also very valuable.

Each day, after all the handlers went back to the hotel to cool off and swim in the pool, the evaluators/mentors/instructors were debriefing on each teams performance. They also prepared recommendations and set-up problem solving stations for the handlers when they returned in the afternoon. I thought that was above and beyond and really showed a lot of dedication on the part of these evaluators. I could really see that they wanted to help. I know that in the process of an actual test, it is not possible to give the testees this type of help.

My favorite part of the weekend were the thoughtful stations on the last evening. What a great way to end the weekend. I could tell a great deal of care went into each and every station to assure that each of us got the level of problem that we needed for ourselves and our dogs. Each station I went to I found an enthusiastic and helpful instructor(s) to assist me to get the most out of the station. Big smiles, laughs and positive attitudes were at the bark barrel station, which combined directionals with alerts. Enthusiasm and encouragement were at the trailer station, which was a really fun search problem. Fun search and great alert holes at the rubble pile station. Great agility and help in pulling search and agility work together at the pile with the tubes station. Thanks to the entire MO task force and all of the participants. Special thanks to the MO canine handlers and

task force members who came out and played victims. They all understood how important the victim is to the dog's training. There was tremendous hospitality by everyone in the task forces.

Because of the assistance I received at the Test Preparation I feel more confident in taking the test this September. Thanks to Pat Kaynaroglu for keeping everyone on target with excellent organizational and communication skills. I highly recommend this training to anyone who is thinking of attending!!! Go - your dog is going to love you for it.

Roxanne Dunn & Chili
CO-TF1

FEMA/USAR Type I Testing Strategies and Tips

Assembled by Kathy Petreré, IN-TF1

Available for download at:

http://www.intf1curt.org/Type_I_Testing_Tips.pdf

Puppies....

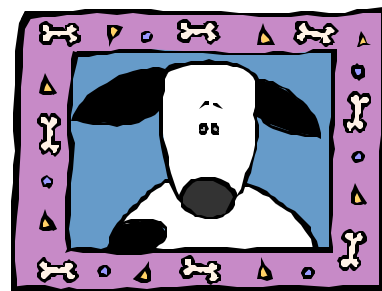
Working Border Collie Litter Announcement

Litter due September 2005

Spot ("Moss"), ABC 202222

Dooglynn Frekk ("Speck"), ABC 225052

Both dogs are OFA good/CERF clear



Moss is a Type I dog with IN-TF1. He has also been trained in articles and is currently training in wilderness and cadaver. Speck is a successful Open trial sheepdog. She has been additionally trained in cadaver and is currently training in trailing. Both dogs have a strong work ethic and excellent temperaments.

For more information, contact Kathy Petreré, kp@geesewranglersllc.com.

Black Labrador puppies (male) available August 23rd!

These pups are sons and grandsons of Ann Wichmann's Torie (FEMA Type I, Wilderness Airscent) and Jenner (FEMA Type I, Wilderness Airscent). The father is a 500 point Hunting Retriever Champion who is now, at the age of 6, starting FEMA training and going right up ladders, etc. Great temperament and super agility on both sides ... these pups are exemplary candidates for FEMA and/or wilderness search. They could go to hunting homes but am hoping to place them with SAR trainers.

Contact Ann Wichmann at 970-246-3757 or awlogan@mindspring.com

CADENCE from CSS school

*We got dogs, and they are good
Better than dogs in your neighborhood
They got good noses and strong jaws
They got tough hearts and tougher paws.*

*They can find the lost in the rubble pile
Then they'll bark a lot and make you smile
Then we call tech search and a second dog
And call the STM to mark his log.*

Ask the Subcommittee

Ask the Subcommittee is a new feature in Dogtalk to address any questions you may have regarding FEMA canine certification. Forward any questions to Amccurdy@clarian.org

1) Do you have to do the stop/turn on the obstacle on the first attempt?

No, they are independent of each other. You can stop and turn on any obstacle at any time. You can even fail the obstacle and pass the stop/turn.

2) Why at some tests are the handlers not allowed to reward their dog until the rubble in Type II?

There are no toys allowed in the test area. The Chief will designate where you can reward your dog in between the elements. The test set-up will determine this.

☆☆☆☆ Kudos to.....☆☆☆☆

DOGTALK is pleased to announce that the following Canine Search Teams have recently gained certification (or **re-certification**) as FEMA US&R Type I or II Canine Search Specialists:

☆☆☆☆ **Los Angeles, CA Results – June 2005**

Type I Certified: Jim Boggeri & Recon (CA-TF4), Kelly Gordon & Aspen (CA-TF8), Howard Orr & Duke (CA-TF1), Hilda Wood & Flash (FL-TF1) and Tony Zintsmaster & Kaiser (CA-TF5)

Type II Certified: Kevin Fildes & Taku (CA-TF2), Lee Haus & Brutus (CA-TF1), John Jenkins & Cyril (NV-TF1), Richard Nogues & Jack (NV-TF1) and Gary Smith & Cappy (CA-TF2)

The National Certification List of FEMA Certified Disaster Canine Search Teams is provided by Lynne Engelbert. (Lynne's e-mail: lengelbert@mail.arc.nasa.gov) It's included with the newsletter as an EXCEL spreadsheet. **PLEASE notify Lynne of any changes in address, status, etc!!!**

National Training Weekend

August 8, 2005

TO: Urban Search and Rescue Canine Teams

FROM: Colorado Task Force 1 Canine Training Group



Yes, we are going to do it again! On October 21, 22, and 23, 2005 the handlers of Colorado Task Force 1 will host a national training weekend. We have a very large concrete rubble pile at Denver International Airport, and will find as many other fun places to practice as we can. We may have limited support from Colorado Task Force 1 due to other training commitments, so please be prepared to adjust to weather and other circumstances without all the tents and other support the task force might provide. As we have done before, the participating teams will all be responsible for making it a valuable and safe training. Expect to rotate between training your dog, being a helper, being a safety officer, and being whoever else we need!

Our schedule in the past has been to start training about noon on Friday, continue all day and night on Saturday, and end training about noon on Sunday. This schedule makes it convenient to fly in and only miss one day of work! We will set up training stations based on group needs and will try our best to accommodate all training levels. We have the capacity at DIA to range from simple alerts to multi-victim complex problems. Agility and directability stations are also on site.

Please let us know if you are interested in attending, and we will send out more details as they develop. Please contact Ann Wichmann, email: awlogan@mindspring.com, 970-246-3757, 970-520-5714.

FEMA Canine Handler's Recommended Reading List

As a FEMA dog handler, you will be expected to choose, train, certify and maintain your USAR dog as well as help others on your team. This is a *huge* task.

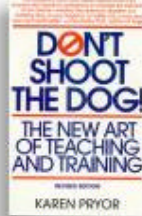
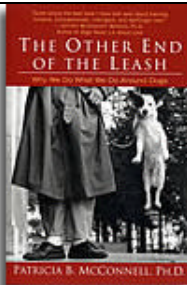
It is impossible to accomplish this, *in a timely manner*, without understanding how a dog's mind works (completely different from ours), what his motivating factors are (different for every dog), how to read a dog's body language (not just yours) and how to pick up on subtle communications before they become a problem.


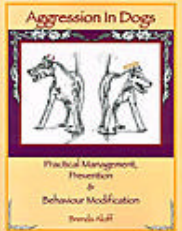

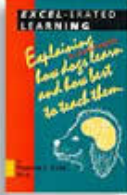
You need to replace "He knows this, he's just being a butthead" or "He's mad at me" with an educated assessment of where the behavior broke down, and how to communicate and then strengthen the desired K9 behavior. Training the USAR dog incorporates both Operant and Classical Conditioning.

There are many techniques to train a FEMA dog, but ALL must follow "The Laws of Learning!"

IF YOU DON'T LIKE TO READ-TOUGH. Get the video or have someone read it to you. YOU NEED THIS STUFF. Just start with one, and move down the list...

You can do it!
Sonja Heritage

Title		Approximate Price (\$US)	Description (from distributor website)
SEARCH AND RESCUE DOGS: TRAINING THE K-9 HERO, 2ND EDITION		\$16.99	Teaches what it takes to train a true canine hero. The emphasis is on handler and unit training, but principles of obedience as well as handler readiness and equipment are explored.
SCHUTZHUND OBEDIENCE: TRAINING IN DRIVE (EXCELLENT!) by Gottfried Dilde & Sheila Booth		\$24.95	When and how to motivate. Puppy imprinting, handling, proofing and much more. AKC obedience competitors use this book. One of our hidden treasures!
DON'T SHOOT THE DOG! by Karen Pryor (EXCELLENT STUFF!)		\$12.00	<i>The Laws of Learning in the real world. "Whatever the task, whether keeping a four-year-old quiet in public, housebreaking a puppy, coaching a team, or memorizing a poem, it will go fast, and better, and be more fun, if you know how to use reinforcement."</i> Karen Pryor Physically larger than the previous edition, this new edition is easier to read with its larger type and pages. It also adds a chapter on "Clicker Training: A New Technology". Karen Pryor clearly explains the underlying principles of behavioral training and through numerous fascinating examples reveals how this art can be applied to virtually any common situation. And best of all, she tells how to do it without yelling, threats, force, punishment, guilt trips—or shooting the dog. (Paperback, 202 Pages)
The Other End of the Leash (EASY READ, GOOD POINTS) by Patricia B. McConnell, Ph.D.		\$13.95	This book shares insights on how dogs might interpret our behavior and essential advise on how to interact with them in ways that bring our their best. This marvelous guide demonstrates how even the slightest changes in our voices and in the ways we stand can help dogs understand what we want. Inside you'll discover: (Paperback, 246 pages, ©2002, 5.5" x 8.25")

<p>On Talking Terms with Dogs: Calming Signals (Simple, Extremely Useful Info) by Turid Rugaas</p>		<p>Book \$9.95</p> <p>Video (48 minutes) \$29.95</p> <p>Book & Video \$35.95</p>	<p>Now the companion video: In this video, you can see calming signals in action. Turid explains each as they are happening. You'll also get to see Turid's own dogs as well as many others (including border collies, tervuren, leonberger, and more) interacting with each other and humans. While watching it we recognized many of the calming signals our own dogs use on a daily basis. A must have!</p> <p><i>"Dogs, being flock animals, have a language for communication with each other. Canine language in general consists of a large variety of signals using body, face, ears, tail, sounds, movement, and expression. The dog's innate ability to signal is easily lost or reinforced through life's experiences. ...Most noteworthy of all canine signals are the calming signals, which are used to maintain a healthy social hierarchy and resolution of conflict with the flock. These are skills which, when carried over to our own interactions with dogs, can be highly beneficial to our relationship. Dogs have the ability to calm themselves in the face of a shock (fearful or stressful situation) and to calm each other as well" -- Turid Rugaas (Paperback, 35 pages)</i></p>
<p>MORE ADVANCED BOOKS ON TRAINING & BEHAVIOR</p>			
<p>Aggression in Dogs (EXCELLENT!!) by Brenda Aloff (Paperback -- December 2002)</p>			<p>For anyone who wants to know more about aggression or dog behavior. Learn how to avoid common mistakes that may promote aggression, build trust using positive reinforcement, and prepare for a long term regimen to keep your dog safe.</p>
<p>The Culture Clash (a bit more technical, but very good!) by Jean Donaldson</p>		<p>\$17.95</p>	<p>A revolutionary new way of understanding the relationship between humans and domestic dogs. Jean Donaldson offers an exciting new perspective on the age-old relationship between mankind and dogs. Donaldson's work with the rehabilitation of aggressive domestic dogs has brought her to the understanding that that biting is natural, normal dog behavior. Aggressive behavior within a community of dogs does not fracture relationships; it's all taken very much in stride, much as we humans accept the occasional exchange of heated words. Problem arise when dog rules and standards conflict with human values. This book will help you to understand the difference between our world and the canine world. How our actions can many times cause more problems than they solve. (Paperback, 224 pages.)</p>
<p>Excel-erated Learning ((a bit more technical-but very good!) by Pamela J. Reid Ph.D.</p>		<p>\$16.95</p>	<p>Explaining, in plain English, how dogs learn and how best to teach them. This book is written for people who train dogs. It's purpose is to help you understand the learning process so you'll become a better teacher. It takes a difficult subject matter and explains it in a manner we can all understand. This is not a <i>how-to</i> book. It is a <i>why</i> book. It will spark your dog training creativity. You'll learn why some training methods work and some don't for any particular behavior or dog. You'll be able to determine what works best for your dog, as the student, and what works best for you, as the trainer. (Paperback, 172 pages)</p>

Book Review

Training the Disaster Search Dog

By Shirley Hammond (available from 1 September from www.DOGWISE.COM)
\$29.95

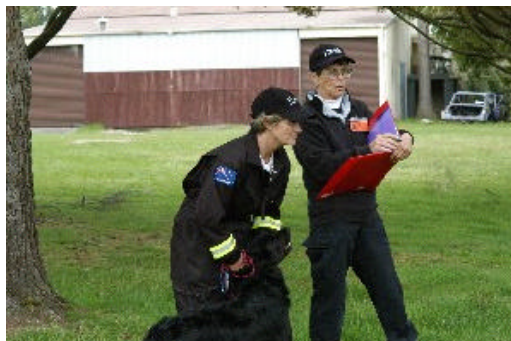
Reviewed by Brenda Woolley, NZ USAR Search Dog Handler- *Milo- Advanced (Type I) and Easy - Basic (Type II)*, National Evaluator (Basic)

I was fortunate enough, along with other dog handlers, to receive an early copy of Shirley's book in time for our recent national training weekend. In the 40 years I have been involved in dog training, the last 8 with search dogs, never has a book captivated my attention as much as this one did. When I reflect on why I found this book so engaging a few things came immediately to mind:

- It explained Shirley's training philosophy in enough detail that even the most novice handler could understand it, while the most experienced handlers could compare it easily with their own ideas.
- It was also void of many of the "I" statements that feature in other books by dog trainers- instead it focused on "how and why" and the steps, in a logical sequence needed to get there.

For novice handlers I would say this book is an absolute essential. I know it would have helped me get on the right track a lot faster and with less "diversions" along the way.

For more advanced handlers, it reinforces a lot of what we do, and will make it a lot easier to explain ideas to others. It also gave us some exciting training ideas, set us some new challenges and enthused me to try some new ideas with my dogs...and have fun with some of my team mates - can't wait to see their faces with 2 people in a hole.



Brenda and Milo with Shirley- Taupo NZ Oct 2004

We in New Zealand have been fortunate to have Shirley visit us, but as we all know she is one busy lady! To have some of her ideas in a book form helps to span the time and distance between us all!

Please forward any news, scheduled events, letters to the editor, or other info you want disseminated via **DOGTALK**, the underground canine newsletter to Anne McCurdy: amccurdy@clarian.org