



VOX

The Newsletter of the Twin Cities Voyageur English Springer Spaniel Assn.



From TCVESSA's President by Julie Roberts

It's hard to believe that 2009 is well under way, and that spring has arrived. It seems like just yesterday we were immersed in days and days of below-zero temperatures and blowing snow. With Brion still working in Iowa during the week, I have gotten quite efficient at operating our snow blower! I'm certainly glad that the snow days are behind us.

What isn't behind TCVESSA is a year of change. Once again we are changing the location of our annual specialty show. We have found a lovely facility in Elk River that gives us the room we need, and is climate controlled (so many of us remember the scorching heat from last year). We have also changed the date and time of year, selecting the days of May 16 & 17 for 2009. Ironically, we are back to the original weekend when our specialty was being held in the early years of TCVESSA. More details of the show to follow in this issue.

What is also behind us is an evening of celebration and recognition. Our annual banquet was held March 14th at the Sunshine Factory in New Hope. It was an evening of visiting with friends, trying our hand at choice raffle items, and electing new officers and board members at large. Once again I come away from the banquet amazed at the diversity of so many of TCVESSA members and their accomplishments. We should be proud!

What is not behind us are more fun and exciting club events. We are looking at hosting an all-breed agility trial in the future. We have an educational program being offered in April, and we also hope to offer a grooming seminar.

In the years that I have been president I have been continually surrounded by very competent and hard working board members. To all of you, I'm very grateful and appreciative of all the endless work you do. To the rest of you that help out and support TCVESSA in so many others ways, we couldn't run this club without you, and we wouldn't be the outstanding organization we are if everyone didn't pitch in and help with events. Thank you, everyone!

Finally, don't forget your dog's annual heart worm and medical check-up. Until next time, throw your dog a bone and take them off the couch, and for a walk.

—Julie

“Dear Dogs” submitted by Francie Nelson, courtesy of a friend from England

Dear Dogs:

The dishes with the paw prints are yours and contain your food. The other dishes are mine and contain my food. Please note, placing a paw print in the middle of my plate and food does not stake a claim for it becoming your food and dish, nor do I find that aesthetically pleasing in the slightest.

The stairway was not designed by NASCAR and is not a racetrack. Beating me to the bottom is not the object. Tripping me doesn't help because I fall faster than you can run.

I cannot buy anything bigger than a king sized bed. I am very sorry about this. Do not think I will continue sleeping on the couch to ensure your comfort. Dogs can actually curl up in a ball when they sleep. It is not necessary to sleep perpendicular to each other stretched out to the fullest extent possible. I also know that sticking tails straight out and having tongues hanging out the other end to maximize space is nothing but sarcasm.

For the last time, there is no secret exit from the bathroom. If by some miracle I beat you there and manage to get the door shut, it is not necessary to claw, whine, try to turn the knob or get your paw under the edge and try to pull the door open. I must exit through the same door I entered. Also, I have been using the bathroom for years -- canine attendance is not required.

The proper order is kiss me, then go smell the other dog's posterior. I cannot stress this enough!

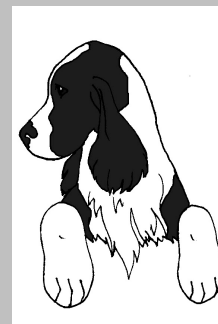
To pacify you, my dear dog, I have posted the following message on our front door:

To All Non-Dog Owners Who Visit & Like to Complain About Our Dogs:

1. They live here. You don't.
2. If you don't want their hair on your clothes, stay off the furniture. That's why they call it 'fur'niture.
3. I like my dogs a lot better than I like most people.
4. To you, they are an animal. To me, he/she is an adopted son/daughter who is short, hairy, walks on all fours and doesn't speak clearly.

Remember: Dogs are better than kids because they:

1. Eat less
2. Don't ask for money all the time
3. Are easier to train
4. Normally come when called
5. Never ask to drive the car
6. Don't hang out with drug-using friends
7. Don't smoke or drink
8. Don't have to buy the latest fashions
9. Don't want to wear your clothes
10. Don't need a gazillion dollars for college. AND...
11. If they get pregnant, you can sell their children!





TCVESSA Board

President

Julie Roberts
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Vice President

Francie Nelson
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Secretary

Kathy Raidt
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Carmen Laing
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Cyndi Myhre
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Kristin Radermacher
swedaro@springers@gmail.com

Kandy Bierle
kbierle@bethel.edu

January 26, 2009 Board Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 6:45 PM.

Directors present: Julie Roberts, President, Francie Nelson, Vice President, B.A. Breese, Treasurer, Kathy Raidt, Secretary

Directors: Carmen Laing, Cyndi Myhre, Kris Radermacher, Kandice Bierle

Directors Absent: Jean Dockendorf

Secretary's Report: The reading of the secretary's notes from the previous meeting was waived.

Treasurer's Report: B.A. reported a balance of \$21,068.76. There is one outstanding check for Fantasy Enterprise which Cyndi Myhre will investigate. The treasurer's report was approved.

Membership Committee: Kris presented the second readings for: Carol Hiltz from Wattertown, Amanda and Jeremy Drew from Prior Lake, Diane Fester from Chanhassen and Julie Smola. A first reading was presented for Steve and Gia Wilde. The motions to accept all of the new members were approved.

Banquet Committee: Awards, brass plates, and wooden plaques were discussed. Viking Trophy has our dies. Francie and Patty Salzwedel will meet before the next board meeting to discuss show awards and performance awards. A job description for the banquet committee will be written after this year's banquet.

A question was posed to identify a budget for the banquet. \$750 was approved, with an understanding that the amount might need to "stretch" somewhat. Cyndi offered to help Francie with the awards ordered from Viking Trophy. A bag with our logo was discussed which can be dual purposed for the Pet Expo.

Seminar Committee: Sixteen people are signed up for the April seminar. A motion was approved to send postcards to veterinarians describing the seminar and that Continuing Education credits will apply. A motion was approved for rescue volunteers to attend the seminar for the cost of the seminar as other rescue and shelter people would pay.

Legislative Committee: Julie will contact Heather Rand about the current legislation being proposed at the state level this month.

Newsletter: Kandice proposed posting forms on our website versus in the newsletter to save the club money in mailing larger newsletters. Kris stated that club membership forms are required to be in the VOX.

TCVESSA Announce: Our goal is to encourage more members to sign up for TCVESSA Announce so they can receive reminders for future events electronically. Francie and Kandi will write an article on joining TCVESSA Announce.

Specialty Committee: The Sweeps judges' panel still needs to be updated. Dr. Tracey Thomas has volunteered to be our vet on call. Kris reminded everyone that the Premium

(January 26, 2009 Board Meeting Minutes, Continued)

List is due March 4th. Kris proposed a new award: International Best Amateur Owner Handler Award and it was approved for next year. Kris also proposed High Combined in Rally but it was not approved.

Hospitality: Joanie's Catering, LLC was approved. Also, stewards will receive a \$5 coupon for food during the day. The shore lunch for Saturday night was not approved. Instead, there will be wine and cheese which Joanie's Catering can provide.

Francie volunteered to be the chairperson for the Catalog.

Purchasing our mats for our club was discussed again. It was proposed that we wait to see what revenue the seminar brings to the club in April. 3 rings worth of mats would cost approximately \$5200 plus shipping. They are 105 feet rolls and 4 feet wide. 10 rolls would cover 2 rings. Kris proposed a new place opening in Elk River which she will investigate further.

Photographer: The official photographer selection is in discussion but not approved yet.

Trophy Committee: They are in discussion, the ribbons have been counted, and Cyndi will have everything completed by March 4th. A motion was approved for spending \$1000 per day for trophies.

Pet Expo Committee: We are ready.

The next meeting will be Tuesday, February 24th at Byerly's in Maple Grove.*

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting at 9:34 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Raidt
TCVESSA Secretary
Specialty Chairperson



*Note: this scheduled meeting did not take place; it was re-scheduled for March 12.





March 12, 2009 Board Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 6:45 PM.

Directors present: Julie Roberts, Francie Nelson, B.A. Breese, Kathy Raidt

Directors: Carmen Laing, Cyndi Myhre, Kandice Bierle, Kris Radermacher

Directors Absent: Jean Dockendorf

Secretary's Report: The reading of the secretary's notes from the previous meeting took place. Corrections were made and approved.

Treasurer's Report: B.A. reported a balance of \$22,600.87.

Membership Committee: Kathy gave the second reading for Steve and Gia Wilde. Welcome Steve and Gia. Kathy gave the first reading for Megan Nelson of Taylors Falls and Cathy Mueller of Maple Plain. The motions to accept the new members were approved.

Banquet: Carmen stated that 48 people have made reservations. Francie discussed the awards, certificates, medallions, plaques, and engraving. The agenda is set and Kris has the prize drawing prepared. Kandice will publish the annual award winners in the VOX.

Specialty Show

- 1) Trophies/Awards: Cyndi gave an update on the specialty prizes. She has asked for help to prepare the prizes and ribbons.
- 2) Venue: A change of venue to Elk River K9 was approved by the AKC. Grooming reservations, hotel reservations, and the Saturday social after the judging were discussed and confirmed.
- 3) Premium List and Catalog: Kris and Cyndi will make any changes.
- 4) Prize Drawing: The Board discussed and confirmed the prize drawing items.
- 5) Photographer: Kris Radermacher is approved for the Specialty.

Educational Seminar: Kris stated that 46 people have submitted their reservations.

Newsletter: Kandice stated that information about the Specialty will be in the March/April Vox, including the show's new location and a list of the judges. More information will follow in the premium.

Calendar: Kris will have it ready for the National Specialty.

New Business: Patty's proposal for an Agility Trial at Elk River K9 was discussed. It was suggested that a Match be held in the summer and then a trial could be held in the winter. Julie proposed that the board members start thinking of what their job description entails for future discussion and documentation.

The next meeting will be April 23rd at Byerly's in Maple Grove.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made at 8:35 PM and it was seconded.

Respectfully submitted,
Kathy Raidt
TCVESSA Secretary



TCVESSA's 2008 Revolving Trophy Winners

CH Chinoe's Eminent Judge Award Presented by Francie Nelson
(Best of Breed Springer of the Year)

A/C CH Sprucehaven Under Time RN NA NAJ NAP NJP WD "Charlie"
Owned by B.A. Breese

Charlie won 42 Best of Breeds, for 238 breed points, and defeated 1,113 sporting dogs with 16 group placements during 2008.

CH Winward's Gadabout Award Presented by Bud and Mary Davis
(Best of Opposite Sex Springer of the Year)

CH Tagalong's My Oh My "Audrey"
Owned by Sarah Kraft

Audrey won 18 Best of Breeds, for 178 breed points, and defeated 989 sporting dogs with 9 group placements during 2008.

CH Salilyn's Prophet Award Presented by Julie and Brion Roberts
(Owner-Handled Springer of the Year)

CH Tagalong's My Oh My "Audrey"
Owned and handled by Sarah Kraft

Audrey was handled exclusively by Sarah throughout the year to all of her wins and group placements.

Redcrest's Barron Memorial Award Presented by Linda Hirte
(Highest total/average obedience scores)

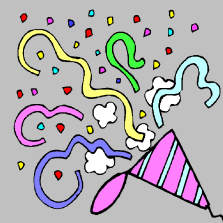
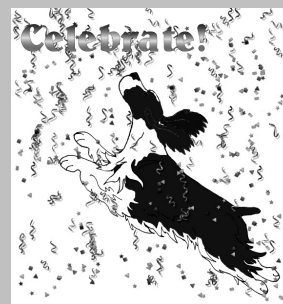
CH Topgun's VinEwood Makin' A Splash CDX SH MX MXJ of WDX "Splash"
Owned by Kathy Patregnani and Patty Salzwedel

TCVESSA Agility Award Presented by Vinehill Springers

CH Topgun's Singin' in the Rain CDX MX MXJ of SH WDX "Kelly"
Owned by Tracy and Patty Salzwedel

TCVESSA Rally Springer of the Year Award

Hirdler Hills Clover Royale RE CD "Clover"
Owned by Julie Wilson, average 99.5 (two-way tie broken with another high score by Clover of 99)





Versatility, “TOP”, and Obedience Annual Winners

TCVESSA Directors’ Award for Versatility

CH Fox Hollow Shamrock Front Page News CD RN JH WD CGC TDI “Page”
Owned by Gary and Cyndi Myhre, Ann Sunderman, and Jessica Hanson

CH Topgun’s Yippee Kea Yeah CD JH “Cowboy”
Owned by Patty and Sarah Salzwedel and Peter Vessenes

CH Fox Hollow Brand New Day RN JH OA OAJ NF WD “Kiera”
Owned by Ann Sunderman

TCVESSA Outstanding Performance (“TOP”) Award

CH Topgun’s VinEwood Makin’ A Splash AXJ NF OF MX MXJ CD CDX “Splash”
Owned by Kathy Patregnani and Patty Salzwedel

CH Topgun’s Singin’ in the Rain CDX SHMX MXJ OF AX AXJ “Kelly”
Owned by Tracy and Patty Salzwedel

CH Nozshoni’s It Adds Up CDX VCD2 NA OA OJA AX AJX “Addie”
Owned by Sheila Koon

TCVESSA Obedience Awards

CD Springer of the Year

CH Topgun’s VinEwood Makin’ A Splash AXJ NF OF MX MXJ CD CDX “Splash”
Owned by Kathy Patregnani and Patty Salzwedel

CDX Springer of the Year

CH Topgun’s Singin’ in the Rain CDX Senior Hunter MX MXJ OF AX AXJ “Kelly”
Owned by Tracy and Patty Salzwedel

UD Springer of the Year

Benson McGhee SH UDX “Benson”
Owned by Jon and Sandy Pidde

UDX Springer of the Year

CH/Mach3 Ramblewood Crystal Clear UDX MH OF WDX “Brooke”
Owned by Tracy and Patty Salzwedel



Agility and Rally Annual Award Winners

Novice Agility Springer of the Year

Woodridge's Nevagard Lead Off Man CD NA NAJ JH WD "Wrigley"
Owned by Tim and Julie Damgaard

Open Agility Springer of the Year

CH Nozshoni's It Adds Up VCD2 AX AXJ "Addie"
Owned by Sheila Koon

Excellent A Agility Springer of the Year

CH Topgun's Singin' in the Rain CDX SHMX MXJ OF AX AXJ "Kelly"
Owned by Tracy and Patty Salzwedel

Excellent B Agility Springer of the Year

CH Topgun's VinEwood Makin' A Splash CDX SH MX MXJ of WDX "Splash"
Owned by Kathy Patregnani and Patty Salzwedel

TCVESSA Agility Award

CH Topgun's Singin' in the Rain CDX MX MXJ of SH WDX "Kelly"
Owned by Tracy and Patty Salzwedel

TCVESSA Rally Awards

RN Springer of the Year

CH Wil-Orion's Spellbound TD RN CGC TDI "Charm"
Owned by Courtney Hansen

RA Springer of the Year

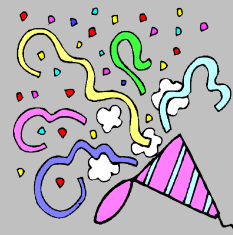
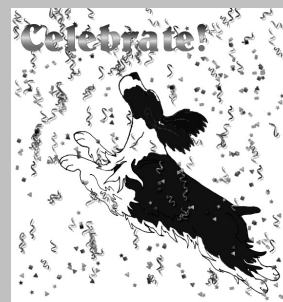
Sagewind's Paws Up It's Griffin CD RA "Griffin"
Owned by Carmen Laing

RE Springer of the Year

Hirdler Hills Clover Royale RE CD "Clover"
Owned by Julie Wilson

RAE Springer of the Year

Pine Bend Show Off CDX RE NA NAP OJP CGC TDI "Belle"
Owned by Kay Esler





Junior Handler, Ambassadors, and Community Service Volunteers

TCVESSA Junior Handler Awards:

Cedarwood's Hope Diamond "Hope"
Two first place awards, Junior Showmanship
Aaron Dockendorf

General Augustus Rye-Lee "Gus"
USDAA Intermediate Junior Agility Title
Emily Gregg

TCVESSA Ambassadors for 2008:

(50 hours of community service or more)

B.A. Breese, "Charlie," and "Niki" - 53 hours of service
Cokato Manor

Shirley Harford and "Aspen" - 86.5 hours
The Pines, Pheasant Fest, Pet Expo, Oaklawn Health Care, Northridge Health Care

Kris Radermacher and "Sweetie" - 90 hours
Hospice visits, Pet Expo

Community Service Volunteers:

(Less than 50 hours of community service)

Kay Esler, "Belle" and "Gibbon"
"Belle" - 20 hours; "Gibbon" - 15 hours (Hillcrest of Wayzata)

Emily Gregg and "Gus"
Nursing home pet visits (in River Falls, WI)

Courtney Hansen and "Charm"
12 hours of service (Ramsey County Library, Camp Courage, St. Andrew's Church)

Francie Nelson and "Felon"
30 hours (Bell Museum of Natural History, Obama Minnesota Campaign)



Congratulations to everyone who accomplished so many amazing feats with their Springers in 2008—from conformation and performance competitions to community service! Start now to keep track of your activities and accomplishments for 2009, and be on hand for the celebration at TCVESSA's 2010 banquet.

Drying and Preparing a Show Coat by Sarah Kraft

So if your yard looks anything like mine, you've probably had ample opportunity to practice your coat whitening techniques! My young dogs seem overly excited about the prospect of getting good and muddy these days ...

At the same time you are keeping up on bathing and whitening, it is a good idea to practice drying techniques to help train the coat and lay it down to prepare for grooming. It is important that you only trim and strip a coat that is lying in as close to a ring-ready state as possible. If the coat is wingy and pointing every which direction – it is very easy to over-strip or over scissor the coat, which deviates from the standard.

It is truly amazing how much you can transform a coat just by properly drying it. Think of the last time you were in a human hair salon; hair stylists place a lot of emphasis on 'finishing' the hair – using various brushes, tools and products to achieve the final look. But the most used tools are brushes and a hairdryer.

Once you have your dog bathed (remember to clean down to the skin – not just the hair), and conditioned, take a bath towel and **squeeze** – don't rub – out the excess water. Rubbing vigorously with a towel roughs up the hairs cuticle making it more susceptible to damage and breakage. It also can encourage the formation of wings and waves which we are trying to minimize.

I use a forced-air dryer to dry my dogs. Most of them blow warm – but not hot– air so they don't dry out the coat. I use the medium nozzle on the back and feathers, and a finer, more aggressive nozzle on the feet and short hair on the legs. Use care not to create twists and knots in the feathering!

My favorite brush for the back coat is a Mason Pearson. It is a bit of an investment, but will last forever and is the best brush I've ever used. The reason I like it is that it grips the coat and creates tension so that you can better straighten waves and train the coat. There are knock offs available too, if you aren't ready to make the investment.

Start at the tail of the dog and brush the hair toward the head (against the grain), then alternate from side to side being sure to dry all the way down to the skin. By drying the coat from underneath, it helps to ensure you are getting the coat bone-dry, as well as smoothing/straightening it. If there is any moisture left in the coat – it will just wave up again.

Dry one small area first before you move on to the next section. By drying methodically you are much more likely to get the coat completely dry. When you leave the other sections wet until you are ready to dry them, you ensure that the coat remains pliable, and that you can create the lay you want. Dry the entire back of the dog, and both sides,



Photo courtesy of Julie Roberts

“It’s truly amazing how much you can transform a coat just by properly drying it.”



Photo courtesy of
Julie Roberts

“Remember when
brushing that
harder is *not*
better.”

(Drying and Preparing a Show Coat, Continued)

before moving on to the featherings. Depending on the length and density of the featherings, you may want to switch to a pin brush. Remember when brushing that harder is *not* better. You need to be careful not to aggravate your dog’s delicate skin, and make the grooming unpleasant for them.

Once the coat is completely dry (check by feeling for cool spots) place a dog robe (Mary’s Dog Robes are great), or pin a towel over the back to maintain the lay of the coat and prevent waving.

If you are doing maintenance baths and do not plan on stripping or trimming, it is fine to just pin a towel on a damp dog. However, the older method of “packing” and toweling a wet coat will not give you the look you are going for –even on a straight coat. It tends to give a flat, stuck to the back look, and it makes it harder to mousse any areas that might need it. On a curly or wavy coat, you will end up with lots of curls and waves.

Good luck with your ring preparations for the upcoming spring shows!

—Sarah

Editor’s Note: Sarah Kraft is a third generation breeder/owner/handler under the kennel name “Tagalong Springers”. She has competed successfully in conformation for 17 years with Best in Specialty Show, All Breed Best-in-Show, and National Specialty point and AOM winning dogs.

Brushing Up on Canine Dental Hygiene by Heidi Buytaert, D.V.M.

Cats and dogs seldom develop tooth cavities, as do humans. However, your pet does have its own major dental problem. In fact it is one of the more common diseases we encounter. It is called **Periodontal Disease** and affects the gums and other tissues around the teeth, instead of the teeth themselves.

About 75% of all dental problems serious enough to be seen by a veterinarian, (and almost all teeth lost), are the result of periodontal disease. Usually owners will first complain of bad breath. In advanced cases, it results in infected, foul-smelling, loosened teeth; with a massive, unsightly accumulation of tartar. There can develop a loss of appetite due to painful gums but most animals will continue to eat until the disease is quite advanced.

Food material, bacteria, and saliva accumulate and adhere to the tooth surface, forming a soft “plaque.” This material can be easily removed and brushing can be very effective at this point. However, if buildup is allowed to continue, it becomes hard and forms tartar which can cause erosion of the gums, with subsequent inflammation and infection of the tooth socket. The gums will show visible gingivitis as they become reddened, swollen, and bleed easily. The buildup of this material allows bacteria to constantly grow in the infected mouth tissue. These bacteria may enter the bloodstream through the bleeding gums; and cause such problems as: heart valve infections and kidney infections. Current research is showing that the inflammation in the mouth may even make managing diseases such as diabetes and pancreatitis much more difficult.

Follow these tips for good oral hygiene

Brush! Brush! Brush! Some owners think this sounds silly but this is the number one thing you can do to maintain your pets oral health. Think about it – we brush our teeth twice a day and still go to the denist twice a year. Try to get on a regular schedule that works for you. Everyday brushing is the best but if you will not be able to keep up try for twice a week. Every bit will help! Make sure to use a pet toothpaste as the human brands can be toxic to your animal. You can find pet toothbrushes but pediatric human brushes may be just as easy to use with smaller pets. Even a washcloth with some toothpaste on it will work – whatever your pet will tolerate.

Some animals will have to warm up to the idea of having you brush their teeth. Start early with your puppies and kittens so that they grow up with this as a part of their care. Start slow with your older pets. If all they do is lick some toothpaste the first day, you at least have a start. Try brushing just the top back teeth the next day. Work up to doing the full mouth and make it a fun event full of praise and treats when you finish each session. Feed at least some hard food, which will provide a cleaning action. Prescription Diet t/d is available for both dogs and cats and can be used as a treat every



**“Brush! Brush! Brush!
Some owners think this sounds silly but this is the number one thing you can do to maintain your pets oral health. .”**



(Brushing Up on Canine Dental Hygiene , Continued)

day to help keep that tartar off the teeth. Dental chews are available for both dogs and cats and have been shown to reduce tartar buildup. A water additive is also available to help reduce plaque accumulation.

Have teeth examined at least once every year for tartar buildup as each pet varies considerably in their buildup. Most practices include this in your pet's annual exam but do not hesitate to ask if you have specific concerns.

These recommendations will probably do more to prolong your animal's life and make it more enjoyable than anything else you can do!

Heidi Buytaert, DVM
 Heartland Animal Hospital
buytaerts@hotmail.com

“Have teeth examined at least once every year for tartar buildup...”

Editor's Note: TCVESSA member Heidi Buytaert is a veterinarian in Owatonna, MN, where she lives with her husband Dale, children Holly (4) and Ben (2), and her dogs Kirby, Payton, Ivy, and Boris. She has a special interest in canine reproduction and dentistry.

Member Wins and Brags

Fox Hollow All I Wanna Do “Kenna”

Owned/handled by Ann Sunderman
 Agile Canines Agility Trial - March 15, 2009
 3rd Place, 1st leg Novice Tunnelers title



Woodridge’s Nevagard Lead Off Man CD

JH WD NA NAJ “Wrigley”
 Owned by Julie & Tim Damgaard
 St. Croix Valley KC - February 1, 2009
 Open Jumpers 1st Place
 TCOTC - February 28, 2009
 Open Jumpers 1st Place
 TCOTC - March 1, 2009
 Open Jumpers 4th Place
*****AKC OAJ Title Earned!*****
 (Handler: Patty Salzwedel)

Cedarwood’s Chocolate Diamond “Smudgy”

Breeders/owners Pat & Wayne Welch
 Blackhawk KC - February 29, 2009
 Winners Bitch—Major



Pine Bend Show Off CDX RE NA NAP OJP CGC TDI “Belle”

Owned, handled, & loved by Kay Esler
 Mpls. KC Rally Trial - February 21, 2009
 Rally Exc. B—95 /3rd Place
 Rally Adv. B—97 3rd Place
 (7th RAE leg!)

Mpls. KC Rally Trial - February 22, 2009
 Rally Exc. B—94/3rd Place
 Rally Adv. B—100/ 1st Place
*****RN Title Earned!*****

Wright County KC Rally - March 7, 2009
 Exc. B - 95/4th Place
 Adv. B - 97/4th Place
 (9th RAE leg!)

Pine Bend Show Off CDX RE NA



NAP OJP CGC TDI

“Belle” (continued)

Wright County KC Rally - March 8, 2009
 Exc. B - 93
 Adv. B - 97/1st Place
*****RAE Title Earned!*****

**NOTE: According to the Springer Showcase
 “final” Rally 2008 results, Belle was ranked #5
 in Rally Exc. B with an average score of 95.6**

Pine BendNBriarton Chasin Dreams



RN “Gibbon”

Owned, handled, & loved by Kay Esler
 Mpls. KC Rally Trial - February 21, 2009
 Rally Nov. B—Score 99
*****RN Title Earned!*****

Mpls. KC Rally Trial - February 22, 2009
 Rally Adv. A - Score 98 1st Place
 (1st RA leg)

Wright County KC Rally - March 7, 2009
 Adv. A - 96/2nd Place
 (2nd RA leg)

Wright County KC Rally - March 8, 2009
 Adv. A - 95
*****Rally Advanced Title Earned!*****



Congratulations Everyone!

Note:

Be sure to email your Springer news and accomplishments to Kandy Bierle at kbierle@bethel.edu for recognition in the newsletter.

The next deadline?
 May 19, 2009

“Clover”

May 10, 2005

—

March 4, 2009



Rainbow Bridge

by Julie & Steve Wilson

We miss our little ‘mimsy’. That word set her off and she would be all over you with excitement. She was a wonderful dog. Smart, funny at times, goofy, and worked really hard to learn and once she ‘got it, she was good to go. We had started training for Utility. I will always remember her as a puppy, crawling under things – beds, hutches, and barking, just to hear herself bark. Then she would peek out to make sure we were paying attention. She became very observant – noticing things like little dents in the drywall or the smoke alarms on the ceilings. She was able to stand on our old couch and watch the birds at the feeder. She was a bed hog, starting out curled up and slowing stretching out to full length and moving us out of ‘her’ space. If you sat in the recliner, she was in your lap, as that was her spot too. She loved being groomed, loved the attention and being fussed over. Clover and Lunar were a pair, best buds from the beginning.

A special Thank You to everyone who has a dog who gives blood. Clover received 3 units of plasma. The plasma did its job and had other complications not arisen, it would have saved her life. I’m sure there are dogs in Minnesota, like Clover, that would not make it without your dogs’ donations.

Thanks again, Julie & Steve

Hirdler Hill’s Clover Royale, CGC, RE, CD



Puppy Clover and Lunar



Puppy Clover with Duck





Rainbow Bridge

by Tim and Julie Damgaard

Unlike other springers that have been part of our family, Brad-Lee was never a performance dog. He was very handsome, but really did not want to be in the conformation ring. He had a small liking for agility, but he would regularly fall off of the dog walk (which actually did not seem to bother him!). He was not very birdy, and for that matter really didn't even like many toys. He did not want to "officially" participate in obedience trials, although he was well-behaved at home (with of course a few exceptions, usually related to creatively raiding stashes of food while no one else was around).

All of that being said, we could not have asked for a better companion. Brad-Lee was best at just being himself. Whether cuddling on a lap, snoring at the end of the couch in front of the fireplace, at your feet in the kitchen, snuggling with Mom & Dad in bed, or convincing you that he really needed that treat, he was the dog that was always by our side. Even in his older years with his eyesight and hearing failing he would always know if you left the room and he would find you again immediately. There were many times when Mom got home from work at midnight and Brad-Lee would be the one to greet her, while Dad and young Wrigley unknowingly slept through the homecoming.

It is amazing how quiet our home is without our sweet little man. Brad-Lee, you will be missed by us always.

Gentry's Bradford Exchange



"Brad-Lee"

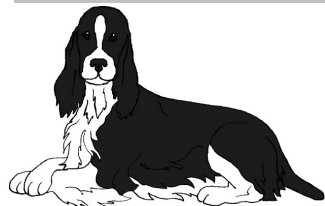
April 15, 1994

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February 10, 2009

Brad-Lee is now free to run with his pals Maggie and Risto over the bridge and can eat all of the Sister Joan's treats he wants!

He is deeply missed by Tim and Julie and his buddy "Wrigley."



ESRA Benefit Drawings at the TCVESSA Banquet by Ann Sunderman

Last fall Jill Shirley, long-time TCVESSA club member, passed away. One of her wishes was that some of her possessions would be raffled off and the money would go to help support Springer Rescue. Saturday night saw a partial fulfillment of those intentions.

Francie Nelson purchased a larger-than-life stuffed ESS for the rescue drawing that we promptly dubbed “Springer-zilla.” One of Jill's hand-tied fleece blankets went with Springer-zilla so he had a bed. Jill’s collection of “Annie books”, children’s books that feature a springer, went along with him, together with an assortment of other accessories for Springer-zilla’s new owner to use for his care. Shirley Harford and Ann Sunderman donated these items. Numerous other ESS items that came from Jill’s house were given away via several drawings. There were some other items donated for the drawings. Thank you to everyone involved!

The big winner (other than Becky Hoskins, who took Springer-zilla home) was ESRA. A total of \$445.00 was raised to help springers in need. TCVESSA Members should be proud of their support of ESRA!

Announcing the Return of “The Litterbox”

Starting with the May/June 2009 issue of the Vox, we will be reinstating a newsletter feature known as The Litterbox.”

This area will be dedicated to the announcement of TCVESSA member Springer litters. If you are interested in submitting information of your Springer puppies, please include the following information: the sire and dam of the litter, the birth date of the puppies, their genders, and their colors. Candid photos of the litter are also welcome, as are stories related to their arrival. Please send your emails to kbierle@bethel.edu

The sole purpose of The Litterbox is to celebrate and announce puppy births, however, not to advertise puppies for sale.

New: TCVESSA Calendar Feature by Kristin Radermacher

New this year to our calendar we are doing a couple of “fun” pages. The first will be a collage of our seniors. We are looking for non-stacked shots (candid and portraits are OK) of our lovely graying seniors. Live dogs over the age of 10 only, please.

The second will be a collage of puppies. Any cute puppy photos can be included.

Both of these pages are open to all members; you needn’t have won a month to participate. I would prefer high quality digital scans—contact me if this is a problem for you. At this point there is no limit, but if I get inundated with photos I reserve the right to limit the number of photos per member.

The deadline is July 1, 2009, but if you have photos ready to send, please don’t wait. Email them to me at SwedaroSpringers@gmail.com

TCVESSA Awards Banquet is History

The annual awards banquet was held Saturday, March 14, and it was an evening of great fun. Thanks to all who participated—it was a well-attended event! There was ample time for mingling, browsing the tempting raffle tables, and buying raffle tickets. We were duly challenged by the Minnesota-theme trivia game, and Julie Roberts conducted a brief business meeting during which club elections were held.

Once again, congratulations to those members and their special dogs who received revolving trophies and other awards for their achievements in 2008, and to all those who earned titles on their Springers last year. Well done!

A special thanks to the work of the banquet committee, led by Carmen Laing: B.A. Breese, Liz Pike, Kris Radermacher, Greta Thorsen, Ann Sunderman, Francie Nelson, and Patty Salzwedel.

Upcoming Events

Spring Seminar: *Shaping Away Canine Aggression*, April 18 & 19, 2009, St. Paul

Next Board Meeting: April 23, 2009 6:30PM Byerly's, Maple Grove

Springer Candid: Our next Springer photo page will feature your favorite candid shots. Please email them to Kandy by May 19, 2009 (kbierle@bethel.edu).

TCVESSA's Specialty: May 16-17, 2009 Elk River K9 Training facility

Happy
Easter
to you and your
Springers!



55127

Vadnais Heights, MN
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Kandy Bierle

