

# KCTC *Newsletter*



Sal, owned by Morgan Shipley, shows off his pearly whites during class.

September 2020

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## *A Message from the President*

Our Session IV classes went well, despite the COVID-19 restrictions. Thanks for everyone's cooperation with our Protocol. Please continue to wear your face mask, and maintain social distancing. One person I know wore a mask with a cat on it, but the dogs in the class did not seem to mind! Our next session will begin October 12, with enrollment opening September 27 at 9:00 pm.

As I previously informed everyone, we are temporarily suspending our membership meetings until further notice. They will be resumed after the COVID-19 situation allows us to do so. If anyone has any major items they want to discuss, please send me an email.

Our next Rodeo Dog trials will be September 26 and 27, and our next Scentwork trials will be October 10 and 11. The Premiums for these trials have been posted to the homepage of our website. And there will be another Scentwork trial November 28.

Our annual Holiday Doggie Photos will be on Sunday, November 29. KCTC member Cindy Sumner will again be the photographer. More information and sign-up information is in the flyer at the end of this newsletter.

I'd like to thank Bill Tullock for organizing and labelling our hand sanitizing, cleaning and disinfectant supplies.

Remember, have fun with your dogs!

Doggie quote for the month: "Dogs are not cuddly toys." – A German government official, on why she's proposing a law to require owners to walk their dogs for an hour twice a day.

Dan Goldberg, President

# *Upcoming Events*

## **September 26 & 27 - Rodeo Dog**

More details coming soon!

## **October 10 & 11 - C-Wags Scentwork**

More details coming soon!

## **November 28 - Scentwork**

More details coming soon!



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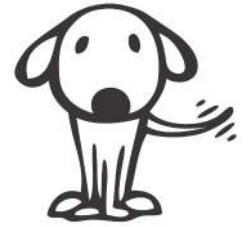
## *Instructor Education*

### **Webinar with Sue Sternberg on Dog Reactivity**

*Reviewed by Amy Sandhagen*

I recently completed this 4 part webinar by Sue Sternberg on dog reactivity. We covered assessing dog reactivity; dog play dangers; managing day to day in a world with reactive and nonreactive dogs, and ways to prevent dogs from becoming reactive. Sue has a great deal of experience and had some interesting video examples to go with her presentation. Her presentations are informative and entertaining. Sue is dedicated to helping dogs become better pets and humans to becoming better guardians. I recommend her presentations to anyone wanting to learn more about dog behavior.

# Wags and Brags



On August 22nd Rags passed his AKC Community Canine Test (CGCA) near the gazebo in South Park. So proud of this special guy!

~Linda Irwin

Abbey earned her AKC Rally Master2 and RAE3 titles at the recent WCOTC trials. 33 master points to go to earn her RACH champion title. I sure am enjoying the journey with this sweet girl!

We are so thankful clubs are finding a way for trialing to continue in a safe manner.

~Terri Chasser



Yee-haw! Why did the cowboy get a dachshund? Well, because he wanted to get a long, little doggie, of course!

My long, little doggies Penny and Heidi had a great time at the KCTC Rodeo Trial in July. They each competed in four events in three trials total and earned 12 Q's each!! They also earned four new titles each: Performance Rodeo Dog Clover 3 (PRCL-3), Performance Rodeo Straight Line 3 (PRSL-3), Performance Rodeo Lock Stock & Barrel 4 (PLSB-4), and Performance Rodeo Round Up 4 (PRU-4)! Since they compete in the same class, it's always a guess who will have more blue ribbons at the end of the day. And on this day, Penny gets to wear the blue bandana!! So proud of my girls.

Huge thank you to KCTC for hosting the trial, and to the judges and volunteers for keeping things moving along! Thank You!!

~Virginia Weida



Spree and I entered the C-WAGS scent work trial at Keystone on August 2nd, and it felt so good to be showing again. I'm so glad that we went. The trial committee did an amazing job of putting on a fun and efficient trial while dealing with all of the challenges of the Covid environment.

Spree was 4 for 4 at the trial, and she was smiling just as broadly that day as I was. She finished her Ranger Two title and also earned two qualifying legs toward her Ranger Two Ace award as well.

The highlight of Spree's day was getting a marshmallow from one of her special friends (Emil), that she hadn't seen since our scent work classes ended in February. The marshmallow had melted a bit in his pocket, so it was kind of like a canine s'more for her! LOL

We are already looking forward to the next trial in October!!

~Lynn Uram



# *In Memory of Heather*



On August 24 I had to say good-bye to my companion Heather. She was my sidekick for 14 years. Heather and I were together from the start being born in my hands. I was always so pleased with her willingness to do anything I threw at her. Together we achieved the breed Certificate of Versatility including titles in agility, obedience, herding, rally and having many champion points. She is truly missed by her litter brother Paddy and her dog friends Sadie and Sparky and by many people including Chuck, Jill, Donna and Mark.

Many of you know this pain. Many of you know the work and commitment to training that goes into a super dog. Her jumping for joy...her love of fetch...and beautiful eyes made her just perfect to me. (Hollybush's It's About Thyme)

~Debbie Miller-Gurchak

# *Princess PIXIE O'Farrell*

(5/31/08 – 2/28/20):

An enormous personality in a tiny package



FAREWELL, PRINCESS PIXIE

Dearest Pixie,

It has taken me six months to start writing this tribute, even though I've written parts of it in my mind multiple times. Every time I started thinking about it, I would start crying again. I knew that whatever I wrote would not be worthy of you. I thought of so many things I wanted to say and knew I would forget to include some. So, here is a partial and inadequate tribute to you; I trust you know all that is in my heart.

2020 has been a terrible year for so many people in so many different ways. But for me the worst was February 28 of this year, when you had to leave us. You were my prettiest and smallest Yorkie, and I thought you would be the longest-lived one, as you seemed so strong and healthy. Yet it turned out that you were the shortest-lived one, not even making it to age 12. That makes me so sad. A lot of laughter left our home when you left; you were always doing something funny to entertain us and make us laugh. And you had so many fans outside of our family; it just doesn't seem right for you to be gone!

Fortunately for you, you were sick for only one day and didn't even miss any meals. I am so glad we were able to get you in to see a vet that day because it would have been so much worse for us if you had not had medical attention before you left. Two vets were not able to determine exactly what was wrong, although something neurological was suspected; and we expected to be taking you to PVSEC for testing the next day. I put you to bed in your crate that Thursday night since you were unsteady on your feet, and we didn't want you to wander or jump and get hurt. I also slept in the family room with you, so I would be close if you needed me. But I didn't hear you cry even though I was just ten feet away, and when I got up early Friday morning to check on you, you were already gone. I screamed and screamed. We could not believe we had lost you. I regretted that I didn't get to hold you, as I did my other Yorkies. But John said he thought you went on your own terms, and that was just how it should be. I don't think you wanted to go through more medical testing, and it would have been worse if you had to do that during the pandemic because then you would have had to go into the office without us. Thank you for sparing us the decision of euthanasia, but how we wish you were still here.

John thinks he should have credit for your success in agility, since he was the one who actually started your agility lessons, as I cared for Pebbles after her torn ACL. But you and I became a pretty good agility team, as you seemed to pick up everything rather quickly and managed to smooth over some of my errors. You did develop some teeter issues, which I was not really able to help you overcome; but you overcame enough to achieve more than I ever thought possible. I was amazed and proud that you earned five Championship agility titles—four in TDAA and one in CPE. People liked to watch you run because you had to make such an effort with your little legs. If dogs wore FitBits, you would have achieved so many more steps than the big dogs did! At one CPE trial the judge even gave you a special award, just for trying so hard.

Pixie, you were not a natural therapy dog the way that Pebbles was. You were much more reserved, and sometimes you were rather shy. But you persevered and became a wonderful therapy dog, earning the distinction of Therapy Dog Excellent and winning the hearts of many people you visited. As you became a Tail Waggin' Tutor, I had such fun accompanying you to schools and libraries, seeing you interact with the children and sit on the teacher's lap, and learning so much. And when we were invited to go to a high school, we felt so important walking down those halls. Of course, that was a little scary for you since everyone was so much bigger than you; but that brought out the best in the students, as they were kind to you and understanding and helped you feel more comfortable. You learned to do a few tricks such as playing the toy piano and ringing a bell, to the delight of students and teachers alike. And sometimes you would just sit up and hold a pose, seemingly for no other reason than that you knew it was cute. You were such a delight to the people we visited weekly at an assisted-living facility, and you brought smiles to many who often did not have much reason to smile. One time at a school when I explained the difference between a service dog and a therapy dog, I said that your job as a therapy dog was to make people smile. One little boy raised his hand and asked, "How does she do that?" I said, "Mainly just by being herself!" You could walk into a room, and there would be so many smiles; that was your superpower, and I was so proud of you. I thought we would have many more years with you because you had so much therapy work to do, but it was not to be. And right after I had to cancel your remaining scheduled visits, everyone

You helped me a lot three years ago when I lost my heart dog, Pebbles. I did not feel a need to get another dog because I had you and because you seemed to prefer being the only dog. But when you were gone, I had no canine companion. I had spent only two weeks of my entire adult life without a dog in my home, and then because of the pandemic I couldn't even go visit my friends' dogs; and I was miserable. John was not ready to get another dog, and we really didn't want to get a puppy. If circumstances had been different, we might have waited. But as it was, a month after you left, a puppy became available; and I insisted that we had to drive to Maryland to get her right away because I was afraid the governor was going to tell us that we were not allowed to cross state lines. We named her Trixie, sort of as a tribute to you. The times I've accidentally called her by your name have been sad for me because I miss you so, but I think that would have happened even if we had chosen a name unlike yours. I know there could never be another Pixie, just as there could never be another Pebbles. Both of you became such significant parts of my life and took me out of my comfort zone and helped me meet people and talk to them, and I credit both of you with making me a better person. Thank you.

There is a saying that dogs leave paw prints on our hearts, and that is figuratively true. But you also left them literally in the foundation of our house when we had our basement waterproofed, and you managed to sneak downstairs and walk in the wet cement. We were so surprised, as you hardly ever went downstairs all by yourself; and you chose to do it when you could leave a lasting impression. Our pretty little princess in pink, you left so many lasting impressions in hearts and lives; and we will love you always. We will be fulfilling your belly rub addiction again someday.

With love,

Dee Farrell





# Keystone Canine Training Club and Seeing Spetz Photography

## Present a Holiday Photo Day

Bring your family and pet's out to Keystone Canine Training Club to have a picture taken for the holiday's  
Due to Covid Guidelines there will be only 8 sessions available  
Photo session is by appointment only

\$12 Sitting Fee free 5X7  
additional packages will be available



November 29, 2020  
9 AM till 4 PM

Call Cindy now for an  
appointment 724-255-7921



Location: 5167 Brownsville Rd, Pittsburgh PA