



The Scentinel



Newsletter of the Tracking Club of Vermont, Spring 2011

Club Officers

President

Alan Shelvey
shel@sover.net

Vice President

Joan Bradley
jbugnon@vermontel.net

Secretary

Linda Shelvey
shel@sover.net

Treasurer

Mie Kingsley
mkingsley@cloud9.net

Board of Directors

Alice Ayres
alidavgb@sover.net

René Bugnon

Ilene Morgan
Islandlabs@aol.com

Elaine Thomas
Tdairyqueen@aol.com

Glenn Williams
gwilliams@vermontel.net

Publicity

Noriko Tani
noriko1@aol.com

Web Master

Noriko Tani

Newsletter

Mie Kingsley

Letter from the President:


With the days getting longer and warmer, it won't be long until we're once again out with our dogs tracking through the fields, across the brooks, into the woods, over the stone walls, through the parking lots.....

After over a month of spring weather practice, with any luck you'll be ready for our test on Sunday, May 1, 2011. There will be both TD and TDX tests held at Smokey House in Danby. The closing date is April 21, so, if you and your dog will be ready, get your entry in!

If you're not quite ready for the TDX take advantage of the two day TDX clinic to be held on the weekend of May 14 and 15. This is a well thought out and well presented clinic by Ray Demarias, AKC Tracking Judge. I have attended this clinic and found it to be extremely worthwhile, particularly the insights into understanding what your dog's body language is telling you. You'll come away from this a much more observant and better handler.

On Saturday, May 21, Ilene and Lynda Morgan will be presenting their Beginner/Intermediate tracking clinic. This is for those just starting out or still developing their tracking technique. Getting off on the right foot with their guidance can save a lot of frustration and difficult 'unlearning' later on. I attended this clinic with my yellow lab, Lily, a month or so before we took the TD test. The confidence gained from the clinic was the main factor in our success at the TD. It is also great fun to watch as the new dogs arrive at that magic "now I get it" moment and change from sniffers to trackers.

2011 marks a special anniversary for the Tracking Club of Vermont. Our October 9 fall trials will be held on the last day of the first twenty years since the Club's initial meeting held on October 10, 1991. Originally known as 'The Greater Rutland Area Tracking Club' it was developed as a result of the efforts of still very much active member Dana Avison. (Dana and her golden retriever Topaz earned their TD at our Fall 2009 test, and a 'good try' for their TDX last fall.)

2011 also marks the 10th anniversary of the first TCV trials held at Smokey House in Danby. Our relationship with Smokey House has enabled us to provide what is, arguably, the most striking venue in tracking. The scenery is at its most spectacular with the new green and flowering trees emerging at our spring test and the incomparable foliage in the fall. Road traffic is extremely light making for a relaxing atmosphere that allows the teams to focus on their work. It is an ideal location for tracking. 

Alan Shelvey, President

Letter from the editor:

Hi everyone,

Isn't it a relief to finally see green grass! Here's hoping for a short mud season and a quick return to tracking training. We have some great tracking events planned for the next few months.

Apologies for this very late issue, among other things my Stormy was diagnosed with lymphoma so she has been my main focus of late. We are hopeful for a long remission.

Mie Kingsley with editorial aid from Stormy, Livvie, Niah, Juno, Sonny, Hannah the cow and Manny the cat

Tracking Club of Vermont Second Annual TDX seminar

Date: May 14 & 15, 2011 (Sat. & Sun.)

Place: Smokey House Center, Danby, VT

Time: 8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Instructor: Ray Desmarais, AKC Tracking Judge

Participating Team (one person/one dog) - \$250 (up to 8 teams) Audit-\$125 (unlimited)

TCV members (as of January 1, 2011) will receive 20% discount.

We designed this seminar primarily for tracking enthusiasts whose dog(s) have achieved a Tracking Dog (TD) title, and are working towards the Tracking Dog Excellent (TDX) title. Priority for the participating positions will be given to those who have earned a TD. However, the clinic provides valuable information and experience for anyone interested in advancing their tracking and dog handling skills and learning what is involved in an actual TDX trial.

There will be field sessions as well as classroom work with multi-media presentations. Participants will use a 'head cam' to record the handler's view of the tracking dog and will be provided a CD of the recording. This will allow you to review the session to further observe and understand the unique and subtle cues of your dog as it works out the track. A field session of cross tracks, a TDX demonstration, and a tracklaying session are also included in the 2-day seminar.

Lunch will be provided for both days.

Please submit registration form and check together.

All registrations are final! No fees will be refunded.

(If we have a waiting list, and only when we can find a replacement, we will refund participation fee.)

For more information regarding this seminar, please contact Noriko Tani (noriko1@aol.com) 603-443-0590

To download the registration form: http://www.trackingclubofvermont.org/TD_clinic_11_registration.pdf

****** Editor's note: I'm told that there is only 1 working spot remaining for this seminar so if you have been procrastinating please get your registration form mailed to Noriko!!**

**AKC
NEWS**

For those who enjoy attending seminars, please take note of the new change in the AKC Obedience regulations (which applies to tracking tests): Chapter 1, Section 14; In no case may a dog be entered or shown under a judge at an obedience or rally trial (or tracking test) if the dog and/or exhibitor have participated/attended/audited a presentation /seminar /clinic /specialized training session or other training within thirty (30) days prior to the date of the obedience or rally trial (or tracking test) under the judge or any person residing in the same household as the judge.

For more information see: <http://www.akc.org/pdfs/rulebooks/RO2999.pdf>

Report of the Fall TD and TDX held October 10, 2010

Although the foliage was a bit past peak after recent wind and rainstorms, our Smokey House fields in Danby, Vermont were still a gorgeous setting for our TD/TDX Test. Test Secretary was Lynda Morgan, Joan Bradley was our TDX Chair and Glenn Williams was our TD Chair.

We had a great group of enthusiastic workers this year and it's a sign of a really, really good time when club members are still lingering and visiting at Smokey House after the Test is over and the clean up is done.

Our Judges put together a series of interesting tracks this Fall, with the TD's set in an area previously used for TDX tracks and the X's grouped near Smokey House Headquarters. Our TD Judges were Ilene Morgan and Dorie Viguers. Chief Tracklayer Glenn Williams was helped by tracklayers Mie Kingsley, Mardi Trendle, Ruth Woodard and Bob Wertz.

The TD's started off on an exciting note as we watched TCVer Elaine Thomas and her golden, Kallie turn in an impressive performance on Track 1. They were all business until the last corner, where Elaine displayed some nice handling and backed up to find the corner and then their glove. Cheers and a few tears followed, as Elaine and Kallie returned to the crowd with their glove!!

Other TD passes were: Track 2, Elizabeth Chase and her Corgi, Heronsway Tintern Cubs N Sox, Susan Menne and her Golden, Greta, on Track 4, Dianne Sullivan and Golden, Higgins on Track 5 and finally on Track 6, Susan Yanoff and her Beagle, Wilkeep Third Time's a Charm.

We had 2 teams earn their TDX titles. On track number 5 Kathy Goodman and her Golden, Malagold's Winter Storm Fairy, raced around their track until they had difficulty on a corner just over the top of a hill in long grass. Kathy worked backwards, found the turn and crossed a dirt road for a third time, went into a thick stand on trees to make the last turn and then on to her glove. Our second pass was TCVer Noriko Tani and her Terv, Elle. From a distance, we watched Elle work the fields in a very stiff breeze that began as Track 5 ended. Elle had little trouble with the track until near the end, where they worked a corner for about 15 minutes before heading into the woods, for the last turns and their glove! We were in suspense of the outcome, until the Judges emerged from the woods and gave us the thumbs up. Thanks to Ray Desmarais and Michael Clemens for judging our TDX's.

TCV member and Club founder Dana Avison drew TDX Track number 1. She and her golden, Topaz, worked their track nicely, making their way by cross tracks and finding their articles until difficulty near the end. They will earn their TDX soon. Dana wasn't too disappointed as she remarked she loves tracking so much, she wants to keep training.

Other teams in the TDX today were Dorothy Schroeder and Lab Sam. Dorothy did some fine handling with Sam, finding a difficult corner before heading into the woods. Unfortunate the team was whistled off in the woods. Emily McDermott and English Cocker Twisby tracked very nicely and will certainly get their TDX title in the near future. Terry McCulle and his German Shepard, Emma, started well and unfortunately found the cross tracks too tempting!

Thanks to our TDX tracklayers, Roberta Barili, Deb St. Jacques, Rene Bugon, Dick Munson and Linda Shelvey. Roberta was Chief Tracklayer. Crosstrack layers were Alan Shelvey and Pam Badger.

Peter Rosengarten undertook the job of managing a large gallery. Thanks Peter for doing this hard job and for making such nice maps, so the gallery knew how the tracking team was progressing.

Joan Sullivan was our Awards Chair and once again showed her creativity in setting up the draw! Joyce Smith added her support with hand crafted T's for teams earning their TD titles. Thanks to everyone who donated or crafted prizes, they really make our test unique.

Lisa Unwin was in charge of hospitality and put together an impressive lunch for us. It was a huge tracking party, one of the best ever, with tracking tales and much laughter. To all that supplied food and spent time cooking for the luncheon....Thank YOU!

Thanks also to Glenn Williams and Mie Kingsley for hosting our pre-test dinner and allowing us to meet their newest family member, Hannah the baby calf.

Lynda Morgan, the raffle queen, was in her glory this year and raised a large sum of money for the club. Thanks to all that donated raffle items and bought tickets.

What a day, we'll remember Test Day, 10/10/10 for a long time to come!

Linda Shelvey, TCV Sec.

The following are tracking test reports from two of our members, Elaine Thomas and Noriko Tani. Both Elaine and Noriko earned titles at our fall 2010 tests and their thoughts on the test make for very interesting and exciting reading. You can almost hear Elaine and Noriko narrating what it was like to be on the track.

Test day. I arrived early at Smokey House, brought in my food, then got Kallie and let her check things out. I really wasn't nervous. It was time to draw for tracks. I was the first to draw and pulled Track one. I got a few butterflies, and then thought, "Well, Kallie and I will set the stage for the others."

Off we went down to the field. As I was getting Kallie out of my car, I said to myself "Kallie can track, she is a Mirasol dog (the joke being that all of Ray and Alison's multi-talented Mirasol goldens are born with tracking titles). Now if I can read her, and be a team, it will be okay."

The field was short, and you could see little frost right in front of you, but not out on the track. The harness went on and Kallie was off. Then came the second flag, and we went past it. Kallie indicated a right turn, "Yes, this is the way." The wind took us to the right a bit, but I tried to stay on the track or what I thought was the track. In front of us were a tree line and a fence. Kallie did some casting, and then it was a left hand turn. I don't remember much about the rest of the track. Oh, I could have handled the lead better, as Kallie did get tangled in it. We took care of that, and Kallie restarted. I thought we were on our last leg, as we were head straight for the road. Then Kallie's head came up, and I said, "Girl, we are so close - find that glove!" Kallie was casting and looking around, and then I heard in my head everyone saying to me BACK UP, BACK UP. I can't tell how many times people have drilled that into my head. When the dog lifts it head and starts to cast, back up. Well that is exactly what I did. Kallie was casting and looking. Kallie was casting to the right, then came right across in front of me, and went to the left. Her head was down and she was going. So I went with her, and before I knew it, she had a glove in her mouth.

I really hadn't paid much intention to Ilene and Dorie, our TD judges, but I knew know they were behind me, as well as track layer Bob Wertz. The first person I saw coming toward us was Ray, then the gallery of my tracking friends. What a feeling! Now it is on to TDX. Kallie can do it, but can I??????????????

Elaine Thomas and Mirasol Who Spilt The Milk TD RA



All smiles after a job well done by Elaine and Kallie.



Noriko and Elle on their way to earning the TD. Unfortunately their TDX track was in such high cover and they were so far away from the gallery that I don't have any TDX tracking pictures.

Fall 2010 TCV TDX test

Noriko Tani and Oriel De Mon Plaisir RE TDX

First, I would like to thank all TCV members who helped us to get here. We could not have done it without all of you. I want to take this opportunity to write down my thoughts and experience for future reference. Please bear with me if I talk too much.

October 10, 2010. It was sunny. There was frost on ground when we left home. I don't remember when the frost disappeared, however since we were track #6, the ground was free of frost and temperature was nice. This morning, I thought, "What if I draw track #6?" then remembered about the book from the town library. The dog on the cover seemed to say, "Take me with you." I was glad to have the book, *Scent of the Missing* by Susannah Charleson. I sat with Elle in front of the Smokey House and read the book all morning. Her words sank in my head--Trust the dog. If you have not read this book, you should.

Earlier this year, someone suggested me, "At the tracking test, ask the judge if you can meet the track layer. Have your dog visit her. At the start, tell your dog, 'Let's find Jane!' It will help you and your dog." I thought, "Yikes. If someone does that when I'm the track layer, if I give off a bitchy vibe to the dog that he'll be scared to follow my scent." Therefore, of course, I did not ask who the tracklayer was. However, as Ray was leaving to judge track #5, he asked Dick Munson to lead me to the start of track #6. They both told me that he was the #6 track layer. Oops. Should I bring Elle to sniff him? Many of you know that Elle does not like men. Dick was no exception. I kept her in the car until the last minutes. So much for the 'meeting the track layer' advantage.

The judges were Ray and Mike. Again, I kept Elle away from them as much as I could. Ilene and Dorie (who judged the TD) also came over. I could see the rest of gallery far away by the Smokey House shed. So, ready or not, there we went.

Elle circled at the beginning of the first leg, then started moving straight and fast. I could see the track on this leg. I was happy to go along with Elle. Good start.

The end of 2nd leg, I think, where the track went left, it took a while for us to move on. Elle was concerned that there were 5 people following us (Ray, Mike, Ilene, Dorie and Dick). The experience during the Morgan clinic worked--having people follow you while tracking. Elle was able to get back in business because of that.

I laughed hard as we went through TALL grass. Bob Wertz made us go through very tall and sharp grass on his farm twice this summer--during TCV pre-meeting practice and Morgan clinic. Thanks to Bob, I was ready for this, including wearing the proper attire.

The next thing that I remember is Elle going round and round as I stood like a May Pole. We do this sometimes, and usually someone would tell me, "It goes left" after 5 minutes or so. Because this was the test, no one told me which way to go. I thought the track would go right, since I could see the Smokey House shed and gallery. I thought we would end where people could see us (Ha!). However, Elle did not want to go that way. Elle looked at me, at one point, and I heard, "Mom, I looked enough. I'm ready to quit." I remember saying loud, "Please try one more time. We'll go back where I knew we were on the track. From there, I will just follow you." We went back, and she went left. I thought, "Okay. That's the way we are going. Whatever. Blow the whistle anytime."

Then I saw an opening in the tall grass ahead of us. I thought, "Oh. We are on the track." TRUST THE DOG!

Once we were in the woods, the tracking we did at Shelveys' helped me to read Elle. Earlier this fall, Linda put a track entirely in the woods, so I had chances to see Elle in various situations. It was a great exercise. We went over the stone wall, a log, uphill, downhill and...the glove!!! Ilene had told me, "Ray likes to put the glove in woods." However, all tracks that I laid for Ray, it never happened. Now I know he does this sometimes—FYI.

As I wrote what I had in my head, I'm so proud of my girl who understands me and accepts my shortcomings. I'm so happy that I get into dog things...it all started from the obedience 101 class that I went with Elle. Thanks for reading!

The 2010 Dana Avison Award

And the 2010 Dana Avison Award, given to the member who has done the most for the sport of tracking and for the Tracking Club of Vermont during the year, goes to... Linda Shelvey!

Linda received her award at the TCV Holiday Party on February 6, 2011. Nomination ballots were submitted by fellow members and I know we are all very appreciative of her efforts for the club. Here are a few words members had to write about our hard working Club secretary:

- Linda has been such a valuable asset to TCV. At first a little shy, it didn't take her long to jump right in with both feet. She volunteers to help with all our events and does so enthusiastically and with pleasure--never half-heartedly. She does an exemplary job of keeping club members informed with her prompt and articulate communications in her role as Club Secretary. It is a pleasure to watch her work with Baxter in any venue and we hope she will continue with us for many years to come.
- NOW CLOSE YOUR EYES AND PROMISE NOT TO PEEK.....WELL FOR A FEW MINUTES ANYWAY. MY VOTE IS FOR YOU!!!!!! YOU HAVE DONE THE MOST WONDERFUL JOB OF BEING A GREAT CLUB MEMBER AND OUR SECRETARY AND I THINK YOU DESERVE NOT ONLY THE DANA AVISON AWARD BUT MUCH, MUCH MORE.
- You both do so much to support and help keep the club running smoothly. We know it's often a thankless job - so thank you!
- Linda works at every event the club puts on. Linda is also a wonderful secretary.
- Dedicated and efficient secretary. Wonderfully committed worker for the club and for the sport of tracking. With her partner Baxter, a talented and exemplary tracking team. An enthusiastic supporter of the rest of us - willing to help a fellow club member in any way she can.

Upcoming TCV Events:

April 28: Club Meeting at 6:30 PM at the Rutland Town Municipal Offices on Route 4 in Center Rutland

April 30: Tracking Laying and Pre-test dinner, Location TBD

May 1: TD/TDX tests at Smokey House Center in Danby

May 14-15: TDX Seminar at Smokey House Center in Danby

May 21: Beginners' Clinic at Smokey House Center in Danby

May 26: Club Meeting at 6:30 PM, Location TBD

June 23: Club Meeting at 6:30 PM, Location TBD



Our intrepid secretary with Baxter after earning their TDX in 2008 at Smokey House.

Pam Badger and Phoebe (Thistledown Phoebe Snow Of Kernow) earned a Q in rally Novice A at BOTC.

Deb Brown and Delia earned her Senior Hunter title with five consecutive passes in three weekends. She is now Northledge Delia SH. Deb and Leeson earned six Master Hunter passes to qualify for the 2011 Master National. Deb says: To earn the (new) AKC Master National Hunter title, a dog has to pass three week-long annual Master National tests, which are held in different time zones every year. And every year you have to pass six more MH tests just for the privilege of getting into the MN event. I figure this will keep us busy for another 6-7 years! Leeson is Northledge Leeson MH.

Ingrid Friedenson and the Tervs: At the Terv specialty BISS was won by BOSS A/C Ch Waldenmark's Here's Lookin at Ewe HSAsd HIAs STDs 'Bogart' This win also completed his Grand Championship. BOS in Veteran Sweeps was won by his mother from the 12 yrs+ class - A/C BISS BOSS Ch Waldenmark's Golden Espresso C-BAR A/C CD HIT RN HIC 'Goldie' (Goldie is 13 yrs old). BOS in puppy Sweeps won by my little girl from the 12-15 mos class - Shumaker Hills Seas the Moment HT 'Sylvie.'

Jill Harlow had a great showing at BOTC. In RA she and Pip (CH Tri Sorts Great Expectations (Pip) RN) scored a 96 and First place and then a 92 and a Second place. They finished their RA and also earned 2 RE legs at Springfield with impressive scores.

Mie Kingsley and Juno (Whitfield Coventry's Arctic Kat CD RN TD) earned an RA leg and first place at the American Spaniel Club rally trial in January. Sonny (Whitfield BluVu Son and Moon CD RN NAP NJP) placed second at the same trial for his first RA leg. Silver (Whitfield BluVu's Quicksilver CD) finished his RN and earned his CGC. He is now an English Cocker of Merit based on the successes of his offspring.

Lynda Morgan successfully ran her first half marathon, celebrated her 4th anniversary of quitting smoking and had a beautiful litter of chocolate Lab puppies.

Diane Richardson and Annie (Frontier Komotion RN): After a 4 year absence from trials, we went to 2 trials in October and November and our Rottweiler Annie earned her Rally Advanced title by earning a 96 and second place (we beat an Aussie for time). This means Annie earned her RA in 3 trials with a 91 and 3rd place, a 90 and 1st place and a 96 and a 2nd place

Linda Shelvey and Baxter (Belle's Baxter Black VCD1 RA TDX OAP NJP) double Q'ed in Open Standard and Open JWW with 2 first place finishes at GMGRC. Lily (Lakota's Ethereal Lilium RN TD) had 2 first place finishes in Novice Jumpers and earned her title. At the ESSCA agility trial Baxter earned his Open Jumpers title with a first place. Lily also had a first in Novice Jumpers. Lily and Alan earned their RA title, with a 3rd place, at Lake Region Kennel Club and Lily and Linda had a second place in Beginners Novice obedience. Linda and Baxter earned their RE Title and Linda and Lily got their first CD leg at BOTC.

Deb St. Jacques and Bravo (Sierra-Echo Cloudwalker VCD1 RA HSAds AX AXJ) passed their ASCA TDU Tracking Test. Also at BOTC they earned their RE Title with a score of 99 and a First place and a score of 97 and a Third place.

Diane Sullivan and Higgins (Northstar Pioneer Gs Freedom CDX RA OAP CGC, Delta Therapy certified) earned their TD as well as his CCA (Certificate of Conformation of Assessment) from the GRCA (Golden Retriever Club of America). The CCA gives him is GRCA versatility title. Diane and Eliza (Pioneer's Gs Curtain Call) earned her RN, CCA and CGC this year. And last but not least Pip (Sademont's GS Pip-N Hot-T) earned his CGC too.

Noriko Tani and Elle (Oriel De Mon Plaisir RA TD) earned their TDX at our test and their RE at BOTC in fall 2010.

Elaine Thomas and Kallie (Mirasol Who Spilt The Milk RN) had a nice fall, earning their TD at our test and their RA with a first place at BOTC.

Bob Wertz and Ethan TD earned their TDX at HVTC in the fall.

Tracking Club of Vermont Annual Beginners' Tracking Seminar

Date: May 21, 2011 (Sat.)

Place: Smokey House Center, Danby, VT

Time: 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Instructors: Ilene Morgan & Lynda Morgan, AKC Tracking Judge

Seminar Objectives: The seminar is structured to provide handlers with a foundation of training principles and techniques to begin tracking training with their canine companion. Participants will leave the seminar with the knowledge of basic scent theory, tracking test regulations and requirements, basic interpretation of a dog's actions while tracking and common problems and their solutions.

Cost: Team (one dog/one human) - \$100 (up to 14 teams); Audit-\$60, no limit.

TCV members (as of January 1, 2011) will receive 20% discount.

The day will consist of a classroom phase and a tracking demonstration. Working teams will have hands on practice in the field with your dog. Please note, field work could possibly require walking through high grass and over uneven terrain. Participants should be in reasonably good health and physical condition.

Light breakfast and lunch will be provided.

Please submit registration form and check together.

All registrations are final! No fees will be refunded.

(If we have a waiting list, and only when we can find a replacement, we will refund participation fee.)

For more information regarding this seminar, please contact Alice Ayres (aayres@vermontel.net) 802-235-1521

To download the registration form: http://www.trackingclubofvermont.org/TD_clinic_11_registration.pdf

For those that can't make it to our clinic, Pioneer Valley Kennel Club is also hosting a **beginner/advanced beginner seminar**

Date: April 9-10, 2010

Location: Bernardston, MA

Instructor: AKC Judge Dorie Viguers

Clinic Fee: \$130 (or \$70 to audit)

Note: Limited to 12 working teams

For more information:

<http://www.pioneervalleykennelclub.com/TrackingApril2011.pdf>

TCM VST Seminar

Date: May 7-8, 2010

Location: Gardner, MA

Instructors: AKC Judges John and Darlene Barnard

Clinic Fee: \$200

For more information:

http://www.trackingclubofma.com/Beyond_TD_Seminar_2011.doc

Canine Legislation, VT Federation of Dog Clubs:

Most of you have now had an opportunity to look at S.51. This is the Vermont bill that proposes to hold someone who intentionally kills a pet liable for non-economic damages to the pet’s owner, the assumption being that the owner would suffer emotional distress and loss of companionship. Some of you may have thought, “So what’s the big deal? We love our dogs, they are part of our families and they are worth more than their economic value to us.” Well, yes, but ...

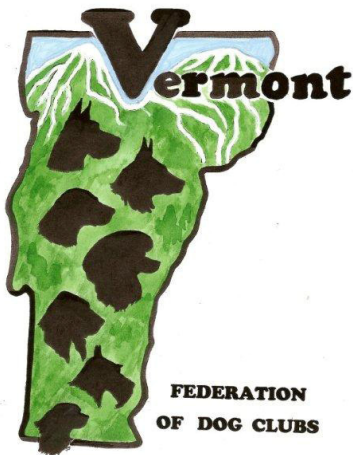
Dogs are defined as property in Vermont. You own them. The constitution and the statutes give you certain rights when it comes to property. That is why, with very few exceptions, you can choose the what food to feed your dog, what veterinary care to provide, what sports to enjoy with them, what size crates, if any, to use, and so forth. Rabies vaccinations are required, because your property (your dog) could compromise human health.

Non-economic damages are not available in Vermont for damage to or loss of personal property. However, punitive damages are already available (and substantial ones - \$1 million - have been awarded) for intentional infliction of distress on a pet’s owner by killing or maiming the pet. Note that the malicious intent is toward the pet’s owner. Non-economic damages are not even available for loss of human companionship for other than spousal, parent/child or next-of-kin relationships. Grandparents, cousins or even human best friends are excluded.

What’s the bottom line? We want to continue to define pets as property. The alternative to being an owner is to be a guardian, which could clog our courts with frivolous cases (remember the water bucket that got overturned in the nighttime?), create confusion about who is responsible for choosing your pet’s care (think about a Social Welfare Department for dogs), limit your rights to breed, buy or sell dogs, and lead to increasingly restrictive laws about what you can and cannot do with the pets you guard but do not own. On top of that, costs could skyrocket as anyone who might be charged with malicious intent will need to purchase extra insurance, and you know who pays for this. This, ultimately, might do untold damage to the quality of life for many pets in Vermont. You know what happens when it costs too much to pay the vet. If you have any questions, please contact me or your Vermont Federation of Dog Clubs delegate. We are all in this together. Thanks so much!

Deb Brown

Deb Brown can be contacted at: 802-734-6818 (cell), nllabs@together.net



Club member Joyce Smith recently created this wonderful logo, shown to the left, for the Vermont Federation of Dog Clubs. Joyce is also the artist behind the lovely wooden T’s that are awarded to all passing teams at our spring and fall tests. We proudly display ours on the mantle in the warmer months.

Obedience Training Time

Thanks to the Rutland Recreation Department we now have a place to work on obedience training. All current TCV members are allowed to attend: Wednesday nights from 6-8pm at the Dana Recreation Center in Room 34 (third floor). The space is available for use through April.

If you have any question please feel free to contact me.

Thanks!
Mie Kingsley
mkingsley@cloud9.net
802-293-2931

Call for volunteers

Please consider volunteering at the TD/TDX test on May 1. Too often it is the same people helping out and that doesn't make for a healthy club. If we want to be able to continue to run these great events we need bodies! No experience necessary. Helping out at an event can be a terrific learning experience and there are plenty of experienced members who are happy to help a novice.

We also need items to raffle off at the clinic and the tests. The money raised through raffles is extremely important as it helps us come closer to breaking even (unfortunately, our tracking tests are typically money losers for the club). If you have a new or slightly used item that you would like to donate please contact Mie Kingsley.

Anyone have any good fundraising ideas to earn some money for the club? We'd love to hear about them!

**TCV Membership dues are due on April 1, 2011.
Don't forget to send in your dues!
Also, remember to renew dog licenses at your local town offices.**

Joanne Fratrach's mother has generously offered to create a lap quilt adorned with a variety of dog breeds and tracking flags, to be used as a raffle prize to benefit the club. Sounds like a lovely piece, can't wait to see it! Tickets for the quilt will be available at TCV events. Stay tuned!

I would like to organize a TCV obedience match this spring – if you would like to help please contact:
Mie Kingsley, mkingsley@cloud9.net

Welcome New Members:

Jill Harlow of Quechee, VT
Malinois

Diane Sullivan from Milton, VT
Golden retrievers

Mardi Trendle of Essex Junction, VT
Golden retriever, Beagle

Ruth and Tom Woodard of Jericho, VT
Golden retrievers

2011 Tracking Calendar

Tracking Dog Tests

May 1: TCV in Danby, VT. Judges I. Morgan, R. Desmarais and D. Viguers

May 8: BOTC in South Hero, VT. Judges I. Morgan and R. Desmarais

Tracking Dog Excellent Tests

April 17: HVTC in New Paltz, NY. Judges I. Morgan and S. Crawford

May 1: TCV in Danby, VT. Judges I. Morgan and R. Desmarais

May 1: TCM in Gardner, MA. Judges J. Barnard and D. Barnard

May 8: BOTC in South Hero, VT. Judges I. Morgan and R. Desmarais

Variable Surface Tracking Tests

May 29: TCM in Worcester, MA. Judges A. Twiss and M. Clemens

June 4: HVTC in New Paltz, NY. Judges R. Desmarais and A. Platt

June 11: BOTC in Burlington, VT. Judges R. Desmarais and R. Seeley

July 31: DTCM in Waterville, ME. Judges M. Thompson and E. Presnall

August 13: YGRC in Durham, NH. Judges J. Hilbig and A. Platt

August 14: DTCM in Waterville, ME. Judges M. Thompson and E. Presnall

August 21: LTCCNJ in Mahwah, NJ. Judges TBD

For an up-to-the-minute calendar go to <http://www.akc.org/events/search/>

Save the Date – TCV's fall test is going to take place on October 9, 2011