



THE WAG

PAWS 2 DANCE NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 2017 VOLUME 23



Coach's Corner with Ray Underwood

Rewarding with a purpose in mind

If you want your dog to maintain energy or drive, mark the completion of a move (Click or Yes!) then move away from the dog so that the dog has to leap into you for a treat.

If you're training a new "Position" move (say side heeling) treat in the desired position to reinforce it. When you first start out, treat the smallest of correct movements. If the dog moves out of position, reset, lower the criteria and reward when dog achieves the lower criteria.

If your dog lags, treat on the move, in front of the dog.

If your dog surges, treat in correct position or slightly behind.

Calendar of Events

WCFO Great Pupkin Ball, Richland, WA, TBA

Note from Editor - Lydia:

Sorry this is so late. No video this time because of technical difficulties. Mostly pictures this edition best viewed at 150%. Heather Somers has some great tips.

First P2D Champion

It didn't take long for Annette Granbois and Jake to rack up enough legs to earn the newly-created Champion P2D Title at *Prancing Paws 2017*. The criteria is four legs with a combined score of 9 or over, with at least



two different routines. The duo performed to "Come Fly with Me," "You Raise Me Up," and "The Mystery of Your Gift" in front of five different judges. Congratulations!

Welcome New Members

Rachel
Thornton
Hughes

Jan
Standish

Diane
Brown
Sheila
Jack

Santalisa
Howard

From the Judges' Handbook

Back to the Judges: Sometimes the handler having his or her back to the judges cannot be helped. Hopefully it is for a short transition or used to intentionally highlight something the dog is doing – a reverse side pass, for example. However, if the dog is in front of the handler and the handler has her back to the judges, then the judges cannot see what the dog is doing. Both judges at the *Prancing Paws* event commented on this and regretted not being able to credit dogs with elements they no doubt were performing. To avoid having the dog's hind-end or the handler's back toward the judges in extended front or side passes, consider doing the pass at a diagonal.

Distance Moves in Dressage: Keep distance moves to a minimum. Remember, the dog should be in a heel position 90% of the time. Exceptions would be control moves where the dog is stationary and the handler moves around dog or in Advanced 3 where the handler intentionally leaves the heel position and the dog must find it again.

Props Timing: in WCFO events, if someone assists the handler with props, the handler is automatically disqualified. In P2D events, the rule is that the handler must put the props up without help and should take only one minute. It is not an automatic disqualification if someone helps – particularly since it is often a well-intentioned person stepping in to help out, but judges may make a slight deduction and the handler is given a warning

Small-Dog Challenges - Tips from Heather Somers

Foot Fear: One problem that a lot of small dogs have is a 'foot fear'. At some point, when having small dogs, they inevitably get stepped on. They do tend to be underfoot a lot! Unfortunately this isn't good for nice close heeling. Some dogs have foot fear even if they haven't been stepped on before. They consider those feet a danger and want to steer clear of them. Sometimes it looks like the feet are the problem, when, actually, the problem is that small dogs have to be out of 'position' to comfortably look up at the owner!



Once this 'out' position is embedded in the dog it is very hard to change. You could teach the dog to 'target' on a touch stick gradually moving it to your side until the dog is in heel position. Do this stationary until the dog understands the position. Then move forward one step at a time throwing the treat ahead onto the floor (with a release word) so he can run forward and get it then set him up to get back into heel position again. The touch stick and the food help him to forget the feet.

Thinking outside the box, you could also put cream cheese or peanut butter on your shoe . . . tell him to get it, followed by a treat thrown across the floor so he goes away giving you a chance to put another dab of PB on the shoe. Make this a game till he starts to realize that there **are** yummy things on the shoe.

Tips for walking straight: 1. Video yourself walking a straight line with your dog. Chances are, you are moving into your dog to keep it in heel position. This movement will be threatening to the dog. Aim to keep a straight line and even move away from the dog to encourage it to stay close. 2. Do not look at your feet but pick a spot on the wall/horizon and walk towards it.

Leash Control: If you're used to training a bigger dog, any pressure on the leash has to be a lot less with a small dog. It's very easy to swing a small dog right off her feet – totally unintentionally.

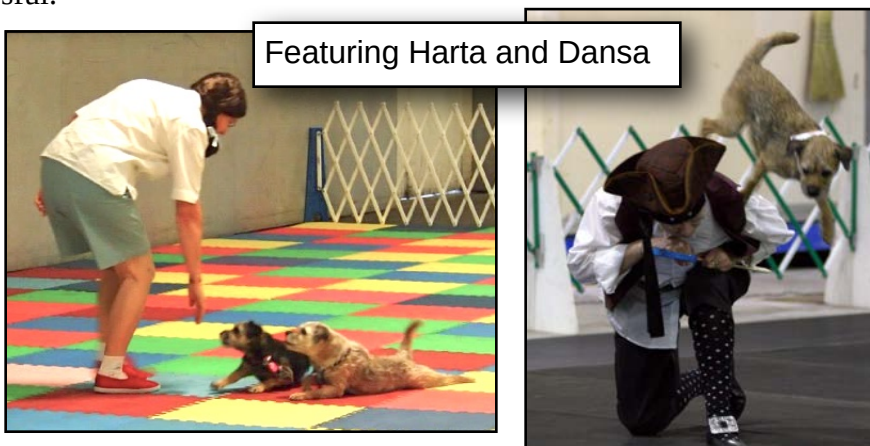
Saving your back: I think one thing everyone would agree with is that training a large dog is much easier on the back. With small dogs, we have to come up with some ingenious ways to counteract this. One is to train a lot of behaviors on a bench or table – obviously making sure the little one doesn't fall off of course!

For heeling, if you are luring, you can put a dab of cheese spread or peanut butter on a wooden spoon and hold it at your side as an arm extension. Behaviors can also be taught while you're sitting on a chair or on the floor.

Using treats for small dogs can be a challenge as they can gain weight very quickly.



Big or Small? There are pros and cons to any sized dog. If a big dog decides he doesn't want to lie down it can be pretty hard to 'make' him. A small dog you can just pick up and gently lay down on her side. Even trying to lure a large dog down can be a challenge, but then it can be for a small dog as well. No matter what the size, they can all be a problem if they don't want to do something. If you make training a game and keep it fun, you'll be more successful.



Seattle Kennel Club - March 11 and 12

Judging from the smiles on the faces of the people in the audience, Musical Freestyle was a big hit at this year's SKC show. Some great newcomers stepped up and a fun team hoe-down with everyone participating finished the show. (bottom left)

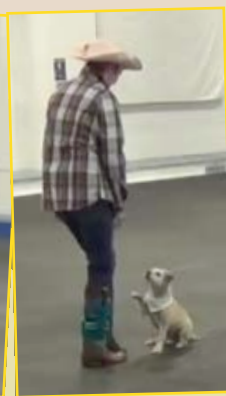
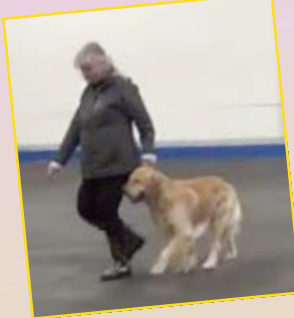


Photo Challenge: Dogs with hats



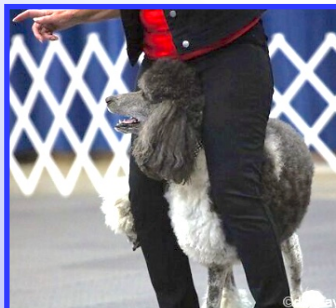
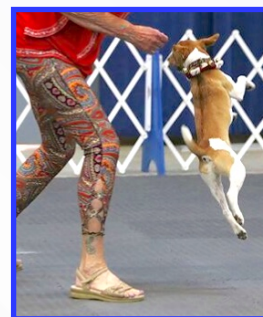
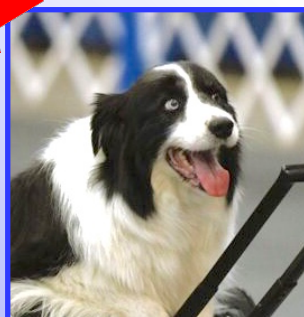
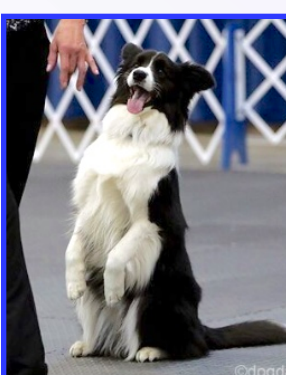
Prancing Paws 2017 - May Day Dance

Several brand-new routines and young dogs debuted at this year's *May Day* event. What a pleasure to see freestyle evolving over the years – new music, new tricks, new looks – always a new path to explore. That must be what makes us continue with this art-form. Big thanks to the organizers and everyone who helped out to make the weekend enjoyable. Photographs by Lin MacDonald, and many others. Several of the following photos were captured from video. Videographer Lucas Bennett.



Island Fling 2017 – Canada's 150th Birthday

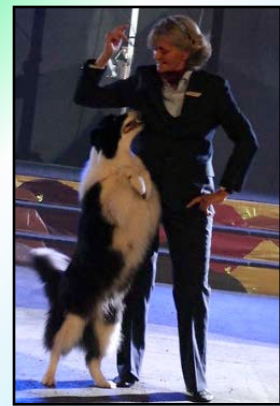
Is it possible to have more fun with your dogs? Check out these pictures of dogs leaping, rolling or hopping a ride with their pals. That gives you an idea of the good time everyone had on the island this year. Photos by Rachel Thornton-Hughes of Dog Days Photography <https://maiathetoller.wixsite.com/dogdaysphotography>



Dance the Skies 2017 - Disco-Era Version

This year's event featured a surprise birthday party for Carolyn's 80th, hosted by Annette. (See next page) It was a great opportunity to catch up with old friends, see some pictures of times past, and learn something new all together. WCFO judge Cindy James said she had a blast at her first P2D event. Photos by Valorie Lennox.



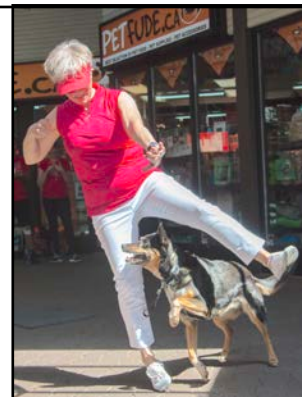


Carolyn's Birthday Party

Carolyn watching her birthday slide show. Annette and Lenore prepping the treats. Ray and Annette performing routines. Doing the Hustle.

Brookwood Canada Day Flash Mob Bus Tour

To celebrate Canada Day, 53 Brookwood Senior Center members from two line dance groups, a square dance club, a Fijian group, and Ali and Lydia joined forces. They delivered seven performances around Langley. The audiences weren't large, but the entertainers had a hoot and Ali apparently likes riding on a bus, especially if she can visit with everyone up and down the aisle.

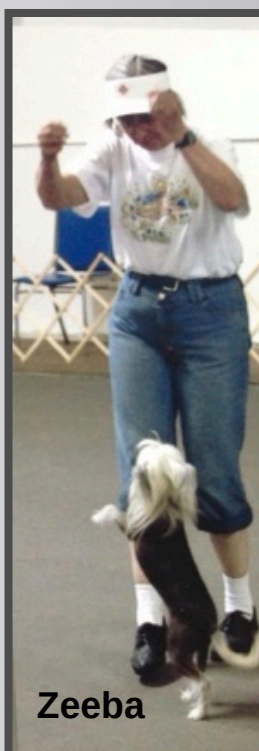


In Memoriam

Friends enter and leave our lives
but the impressions they make
on our hearts
stay with us forever



Miss Nahli



Zeeba

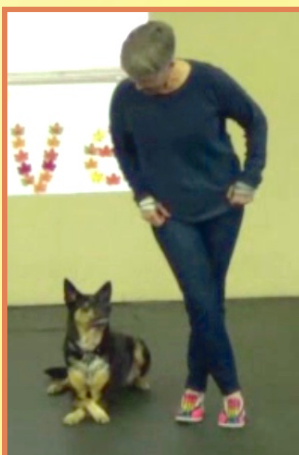
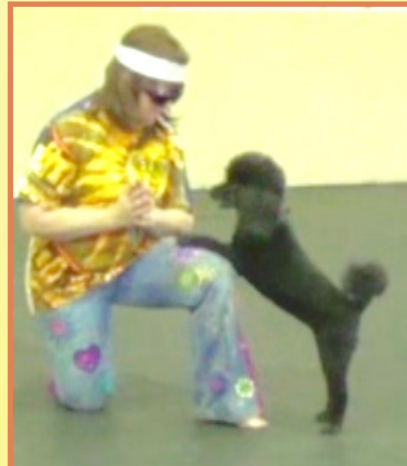


Breeze



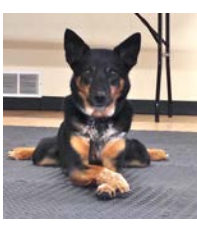
Boot Scootin' Boogie 2017 - Autumn Leaves Fall Frolic

Trying something a little different, the ECK9 Freestylers held a two-organization weekend in September. On Saturday, **Paws 2 Dance** hosted a Musical Freestyle/Dressage event. On Sunday, **Rally Freestyle Elements** hosted a Musical Freestyle/In Sync/Rally Free event. Competitors had the opportunity to watch different formats and try something new. What was really fun about this event is that members of each group helped each other out with staging the events. Photos from videos by Lucas Bennett and Carolyn Money.



Tricks Workshop - Lydia Francescutti

After Saturday's Paws 2 Dance event at BSB's Autumn Leaves Fall Frolic, Lyd gave a short workshop on tricks with her side-kick, Ali. Jane demonstrated some small-dog variations of the tricks with Juno. Here are a few of the tricks. More will follow in our next WAG edition.

	Sit pretty with front paws on hoop Cue: Hoop	A training partner is helpful for teaching this trick. • With dog in front of you in a sit, hold hoop between you. (If dog does a "sit pretty" use that as starting position) • Mark or click and treat (C/T) single paw on hoop. Partner may assist with rewards. Reward even an instant of second paw on hoop. Gradually increase duration of paws on hoop • Experiment to find the most comfortable height for hoop for your dog. • Have dog sitting between your legs and present hoop, following same process • Once the dog consistently performs this move, create an entry for move – i.e. handler circles to behind the dog and drops the hoop.
	Back Hug Cue: Hug (for medium to large dogs)	• Have dog in a sit-stay. Position yourself in front of the dog in a low kneel. Tap both shoulders. Partner may lure dog upward. As soon as dog has a paw on each of your shoulders, have partner C/T. Repeat several times. Gradually lower the position of the treat to draw the dog's head down. • Once dog has the behavior with partner assist, hold the treats, one in each hand, with hands over your shoulders. Cue dog. Treat when the head is low. If your dog has a "Drop the head" cue, use it here. • Once dog can do this without assistance, add a "circle to behind" if you want the dog to go into hug from a different position. <u>Small dog variation:</u> handler sits on platform while dog stands on platform. <u>Really small dog,</u> handler sits on floor with dog on platform. <i>For small dogs, both paws will likely have to be on the same side of your head.</i>
	Arm Stall Cue: Up/ Arm (small dogs)	• Lie on stomach and have dog climb on your back. C/T <i>You may have to spend quite a bit of time ensuring your dog it's okay to climb all over you</i> • Position yourself on hands and knees and have dog climb or jump up. C/T • Same but shift weight back so that you are more upright, balancing in one arm. • Hold other arm out. Use partner to reward any movement out onto the arm. • If you can balance without one arm down (or prop assist), then balance without support and raise upper body. <i>Wear a top that is not slippery.</i>
	Criss Cross Cue: Criss and Cross	<u>Method 1:</u> Imagine you want dog to cross right paw over left. Face dog. Hold your <i>right</i> hand palm up, over <i>left</i> paw. C/T if dog touches your palm with its right paw. When successful, gradually move your hand further to your right. Add cue. (Criss) Remove hand target and cue move. Once solid, start work on other paw (Cross). BE PATIENT! <u>Method 2:</u> Face dog. Hold your dog's <i>left</i> paw with your <i>left</i> hand, move your right hand with lure, to the outside of the dog's left paw and toward the dog's waist. To reach the lure, the dog will have to move its right paw over the left. C/T
	Barrel Roll Illusion Cue: Push	• Lie on floor on your side facing dog, holding treat up and away from your hip. • When dog puts paws on your hip, C/T • Have partner use lure and then a hand target to keep dog in correct position as you roll. • If the dog keeps its paws on your hip, the illusion will be that the dog is rolling you. • Gradually increase your roll distance. Do the roll fairly quickly for a better illusion.
	Twist Illusion Cue: Up/ twist (med. large)	• Have dog put its paws on your waist. C/T • Pivot a tiny bit and C/T if dog maintains contact. • Gradually increase your pivot. The illusion is that the dog is spinning you. Caution: don't back away from dog. Hold your ground or dog will drop off. <i>Don't try either of these illusions if you suffer from vertigo or get dizzy easily!</i> <i>Keep dog's nails trimmed!</i>