



THE WAG

PAWS 2 DANCE NEWSLETTER MARCH 2018 VOLUME 24



Coach's Corner with Ray Underwood **MINI EVENTS**

Mini-events: Up until now, P2D has hosted three major events each year – one in Langley, one on the Island, and one in Washington. Many members found that these three events provided plenty of opportunity for trials while others wished to see more. *P2D would like to encourage local clubs to host more frequent, small events.*

Costs: Attending three major events is expensive, especially when you factor in travel and accommodation costs. As a result, many members have been attending just one event per year. With mini-events held at the local level participants would not have to travel as far; and, with the smaller required ring-size, costs could be kept to a minimum for hosts. Organizers would, of course, still have to have at least one judge.

Benefits: Handlers would have the chance to put their dogs in competition and go through all the motions. Dogs would become used to an audience and the noises (and silent pauses and music malfunctions) that accompany large competitions. Handlers would be able to work on ring readiness and reduce their own butterflies.

New Rules: The new rules were sent out earlier this month. The scoring and titling would be a little different. Lin included judges' score sheets in the package. On November 3rd, Langley will be hosting our inaugural event with the new rules. The event will also serve as a judges' clinic. I will be judging and have invited all judges (and future judges) to attend. They will be able to review with me the score sheets for each entry.

Welcome New Members

Phyllis Brewer

Sandy Limb

Reehana
Schroeder

Lilly
Hammermeister

Marlene Gobillot

Jodie Justice



Calendar of Events

**P2D Boot Scootin' Boogie –
September 22/23, Arlington, Washington**

**WCFO Great Pupkin Ball
October 27/28, Richmond, Washington**

**P2D Inaugural New Rules event
November 3 – Annette's Facility, Langley
(Stay tuned for other mini events)**

From the Judges' Handbook - Lyd Francescutti **Proficiency Tests**

Dressage was great for a couple reasons: it encouraged handlers to work on heel positions and movements they otherwise might not have tried. It provided a place for handlers who weren't keen on artistic performance to showcase their dog's heeling ability. However, choreography suffered at the expense of the required elements, and it was super difficult to judge!

Proficiency Tests will also encourage handlers to work on heeling in different positions (8 in total) and will provide a place for people to start if they're not keen on artistic performance. However, it will be easier to judge as judges will focus solely on the elements. For those who want to choreograph a heeling routine without required elements, there will be the new Heelwork to Music.

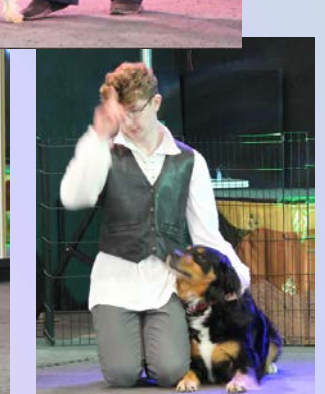
In a Nutshell: There are nine levels. At each level, handlers and their dogs must execute four elements. They must complete these elements within three minutes to one of a selection of music we will provide. Once they've completed the elements, they are finished and do not have to stay in the ring. They may attempt each element a maximum of three times. Judges will give a pass or NQ for each element and a reason for any miss.

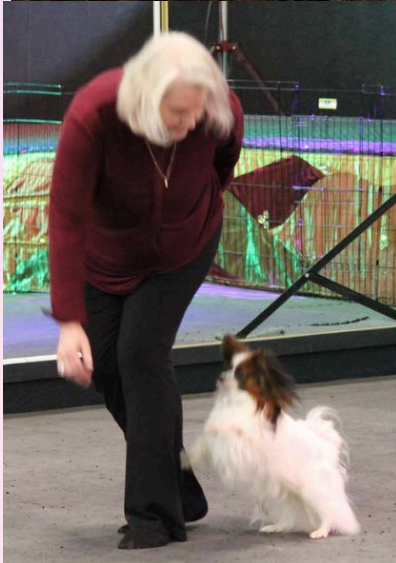
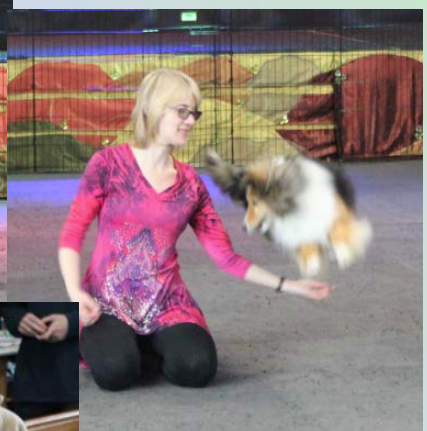
Prancing Paws April 2018

Annette's training facility was the backdrop for this year's event. The cozier seating promoted conversations, catching up and much support for every performer. The dogs seemed to enjoy the site – particularly the huge dog run. Linda arranged for an Olive Garden-catered supper after the club meeting Saturday night. Photos by Don Bennett and some screen shots from video by Lucas Bennett



My word . . . nice dog run!





Meet Lucas Bennett – WCFO 2017 junior handler of the year.

Lucas and Marty, his Golden Retriever Cross, have had some strong showings in both Paws 2 Dance and WCFO competitions including high technical and high combined score at the P2D *Prancing Paws 2018* and high artistic and technical at the WCFO *Dance the Skies 2017*.



Lucas became interested in freestyle after taking pet-obedience classes with Ray. The family had just acquired Marty who was 8 weeks old and not terribly obedient! They needed some basic obedience strategies to manage him and Hank, their four-year-old German Shepherd. Ray suggested Lucas try something different . . . musical freestyle.

The sport's potential for creativity attracted Lucas. He liked the fact that in addition to completing elements such as in obedience, the handler had the freedom to do more – choose which elements best suited the dog, select music, and choreograph routines – making them whatever he or she wanted them to be.

What Lucas likes best about training is that it is just he and Marty spending 15 - 20 minutes of each day playing and having fun while learning new things. Sometimes Marty does things on his own and Lucas incorporates Marty's ideas into the choreography. Marty doesn't care what they work on as long as he's having fun – and that shows with his wagging tail and pricked ears.

What Lucas finds most challenging about training is maintaining consistency. That doesn't mean doing the same thing each time, but in doing things in a consistent fashion. Lucas says, "Sometimes I find myself doing something that works and then I forget to do it that way and things don't go as well."

To young people considering this canine sport, Lucas would tell them that anybody can do it. It's not just a sport for retired ladies with their dogs!!! Also, sometimes people see all the border collies in the sport and think they need a border collie, but that's not true. As long as you build a routine around a dog's strengths you can be successful. You shouldn't be limited by what breed you have. "I'd encourage younger people to try MF. I find it enjoyable. It's a fun challenge."

Besides competing with his dog, Lucas plays alto saxophone in the school jazz and concert bands and guitar outside of school. He used to play competitive soccer and continues to play for fun. He finds it pretty easy to fit musical freestyle into his schedule: he knows when he has his classes and works other activities around them. Besides, there is a limit to how long you train a dog per day . . . 15 to 20 minutes. "It helps to have supportive parents who drive me around." Speaking of parents, Lucas's parents like that he doesn't just *own* the dog but that he does something with the dog and includes Marty in his life.

Lucas is grateful to the many friendly people in freestyle who have welcomed him into the sport and encouraged him along the way. "They've all seemed happy that I'm part of the sport. In particular Ray has been a solid mentor, answering all my questions and choreographing a couple of my routines that probably otherwise would have been train wrecks."

Right now Lucas is preparing for the next competition by refining his *Pirates of the Caribbean* routine which he choreographed himself. And, looking down the road, he is choreographing two routines – one comedy and a contemporary. We all look forward to what he and Marty will come up with next.

Photo Challenge - Snuggle Bugs



Deja with toy collection
Emmy-Lou with Heather
Cedar with Anne
Ali with Jonny
Benny with Karen's Mom
Marty with Luke,
Panda with Gail's slipper
Justin with Jane

Skit Lesson with Ray (at the WCFO *Dance the Skies* event August 11th)

Ray walked us through the process he uses when creating a skit routine.

Story Line – the skit must have impact and audience must be emotionally invested whether the desired effect is humor or sadness – or anything else. *Work out the story first.*

Music – although you may wish to choose music with lyrics that tell a story, you don't need to. Choose music that creates mood and gives support to your story. Don't let lyrics anchor you because they may be irrelevant to your story. Mimicking actions from lyrics does not necessarily create a story.

Movement – select handler and dog movements that support the story. Don't throw in a movement that your dog may do well just because he can do it. Low, crawl-type moves suggest sadness; hind-leg or jumping moves suggest joy. Consider the highs and lows of the story line and choose movement accordingly. Handler movement is just as important as dog movement. The story should be evident even when you train the routine without the dog. Even though the handler may not dance, s/he must show some skill and intent with movement.

Props – use just enough props to convey meaning to the audience. Don't make the props the focus.

In Memoriam

*What we have once enjoyed we can never lose;
All that we love deeply, becomes a part of us.*
-Helen Keller



Beezuzu 2004 - 2018



Hunter 2003 - 2017



Raven 2005 - 2018



Sam 2010 - 2018

New Rules and Restructuring for Paws 2 Dance

Consider the state of Musical Freestyle: in Europe and some other countries, participation is so high that people are turned away from competitions. In many places in North America, there isn't the same growth. World-wide organization (the European model) creates competition and is a different structure from P2D or WCFO.

Structural differences: instead of a multitude of divisions, there are usually only four: starters, novice, intermediate, and advance – in both freestyle and heel-work. Competitors must accrue a certain number of points in order to move up to the next level. Points are accumulated by placing in a competition – certain number of points for first place, second, etc. Once an individual has reached the advanced level, they stay there and compete against others at this level. Rather than only 1 or 2 competitions per year, 4 to 6 or even more are available. Some of these are very small and held within clubs. Winners there move on to regional then national competitions. Countries send top performers to the world competition.

Typically, freestyle is comprised of up to 25% of heel work and 75% of other movement and elements. Heel-work is comprised of at least 75% heel work and 25% other movement and elements. Most countries recognize at least 8 heel positions.

We are restructuring P2D to align more closely with the European format. We would therefore offer titling opportunities in Freestyle and Heelwork to music at four levels. We would also offer a specialty division which would accommodate seniors, pairs, teams, braces. Our "Dressage" discipline will be changed to a series of Proficiency tests based on heeling positions. Each level would require the handlers and dogs to perform four elements. By the ninth level, dogs would have to show competence in all 8 heel positions.

Keeping your dogs cool – the basics plus some clever new gizmos

Lin MacDonald

With the heat wave we have been experiencing, it seemed like a good time for an update on keeping your dogs cool while travelling or participating in dog sports. There have been many new solutions since we first visited the subject 8 years ago!

Your Car itself: There aren't a lot of things you can directly change about your car, but some of these might be worth considering when getting your next one.

Solar film: Most vehicles nowadays come with privacy tint film already installed. This film is designed to prevent people from seeing inside your car too easily -- it does not block out heat or UV rays! For that, you need to have Solar Film installed. It is not terribly expensive and can be installed right over top of the factory installed privacy film. It makes a surprisingly big difference to your car interior!

Colour: the colour you choose for your vehicle also affects the interior temperature. A darker exterior colour will get hotter on the inside faster than a light-coloured vehicle, and white will be cooler even than a light silver. Also, a lighter colour will cool down faster once you start driving again.

Sun/Moon Roofs: a tinted sun or moon roof can really help cool down a vehicle by allowing hot air to escape.

So, for what you can add to your car, here is a pretty comprehensive list of items that have been suggested by people.

Windshield shade: there are lots of windshield shades out there ranging in price from \$10 to \$150. Most go on the inside of the vehicle but a few sit on the outside of your windshield, supposedly to stop the sun's rays before they enter your vehicle. A great source for a huge selection is www.carid.com

Window screens: on the same website, you can find custom window screens for your back windows. These are great! They are made of a black mesh and they allow you to roll down your windows in secure areas to bring air into your car. The mesh provides shade to your interior and prevents people from peering or reaching in. They aren't secure however as it would take no more than a sharp knife to cut them! A much more inexpensive version is available that will slip over your car door. These aren't custom to your vehicle but will fit most. <https://humblehousehold.com/products/2pcs-car-window-shades>

Cool Cap Heat Blocking Car Cover: A new product out there that is halfway between a Window shade and shade cloth is the Cool Cap. They come in custom sizes for your vehicle and slip right over your roof covering all the windows. I know of at least one dog person who swears by them. <https://www.itscoolinhere.com/>

Vent Lock: these are bars that allow your hatch to open a certain amount so that air can get in your vehicle, but dogs can't get out and people can't get in. They come in a variety of sizes. Unfortunately, some of the newer automatic tailgates won't accept them so check before you buy one.

Shade cloth: By far, this is everyone's favourite. The type to use is Alumet which is a highly reflective aluminized mesh that is usually finished on all 4 sides with grommets and webbing. It acts like a mirror, reflecting the intense infrared radiation, heat, and light of the sun to provide a cooler climate; it allows air to flow through, and provides great shade to the interior of your vehicle. Alumet comes in different densities but 70% is the one you want -- many of the other densities are more suited to greenhouses and structures. It also comes in several different sizes, from 6' x 6' and upwards. Most people just drape it over the car and attach it with short bungees around the mirrors or trap it in their doors or with the use of magnets. You can buy it on Amazon.ca, Smith Training Equipment in Abbotsford, CleanRun.com and a variety of other dog suppliers.

Fans: these have become a lot more popular in the last few years. There are specialized crate fans that you can use, but they use standard batteries and eat through them quickly -- in the end, they become super expensive! Most people now use small battery-operated Construction fans. These are readily available at Home Depot and are quite inexpensive: \$45-\$80. The batteries, however, are not cheap, (c. \$55 each) but they are rechargeable and last for hours. The 2 favourites are ones made by Rigid (some people say this is the best one) or by Ryobi. Both of these companies also make cordless tools so many people make their choice based on what tools they might have that can share the batteries.

The Noggle: If your pet's travel crate is in the very back of your vehicle, your Air conditioning may not reach that far back. A device that was created for babies is the Noggle (they have a pet version at Walmart -- the same thing!). It is a hose covered in fabric that clips easily to an AC vent and can be threaded through your car to direct cool air wherever it is needed. They retail for \$50-\$100.

Thermometer: You can always clip an ordinary thermometer onto your crates to check the temperature, or you can invest in a remote sensor. SensorPush is one of the most popular at about \$70. It connects to your phone via Bluetooth and can let you know what the temperature in your car is. Nimble is another very popular one. It uses Cellular service so is much more reliable, but it requires a subscription (\$120-\$180 per year) and the equipment costs about \$200. I have heard of people that rigged up a Freezer alarm to a Cell-to-Landline Adapter, but that's a little too complex for my taste!

Your crates: it is widely accepted that your dogs travel crates should not be overly large; they should just allow them enough room to stand and turn around. In an accident, this prevents them from being thrown around. However, it doesn't leave much air space. Consider bringing a larger, more open crate (a wire crate is ideal) to events so that they can relax in comfort.

Cooling mats: There are basically 2 kinds of these – one is like a water bed. It is a bladder with a foam centre that you add water to. You can freeze these the night before for travel. They can be fragile (a nail can poke and destroy it) and unwieldy so most people are now using the second kind which is a Gel pad that is weight activated; when the dog lies on it, it activates the cooling to lower the temperature. They are usually more solidly built than the older water variety. Depending on the size you need, you can find a cooling pad for around \$25. HomeSense often has them in their pet section. The other option is to put a layer of ice pads under your dogs' crate, but be sure to separate them with a towel, etc so that the ice doesn't touch your dog's skin!

Cooling Vests: These are vests that help cool your dog through evaporative cooling. They are designed with materials that help speed up the rate of evaporation. You soak it in water and put it on your dog. You want to make sure that it is a good fit for your dog – different brands will fit differently. Some good brands to try are the Ruffwear Swamp Cooler or Jet Stream, Hurtas Cooling Vest, or the PupPal Vest. It's also important to note that your dog should not be left in these for long periods of time or they will start to heat him up when dry. Many people prefer to just use a wet blanket so that their dog can move off if they want to.

Tents: For dog sports, many people have a Pop-Up tent for themselves and their dogs, or a sunshade that they can put their dogs' crates under. There are even tents that go over your car or over your open hatchback. Combine any of these with some shade cloth and you have a nice cool space to hang out in.

Wading Pools: These are popular at many dog events. You can get durable ones made just for dogs and for the little guys, consider a baby wading pool.

Emergency Info: always Keep your emergency information with you. When a situation happens, it's not the time to start frantically searching for your veterinarian's phone number, or the address of the nearest emergency clinic. Keep important numbers and medical information for your pet up to date and in your wallet or in the car.

Just the basics! And, don't forget a thermos of water and a water bowl for your dog! Also, maybe a spray bottle of water (they even have some with a built-in misting fan!) and some watermelon or pup-sicles as a cool treat!



Emerald City Christmas 2017

Can you tell they were running an “Christmas Sweater” contest?
Participants shared some of their favorite tricks.



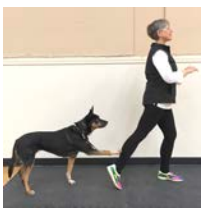
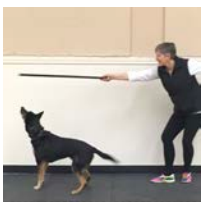
Emerald City Hosts WCFO, Spring 2018

Despite recovering from illness back in Sequim, Carolyn still managed to have input into the event. Kris, Pat, Melony and others all pitched in to make the event fun. Here are a few P2D members who competed.



Tricks Workshop Round Two - Lydia Francescutti

After the 2017 BSB's, Lyd gave a short workshop on tricks with her side-kick, Ali. Jane demonstrated some small-dog variations of the tricks with Juno. Some tricks were explained in WAG 23. Here are the remaining tricks.

	Walking with paw on back leg. Cue: left, right	• Warm up with paws to hands, to feet in front, to knees in front. • Face away from dog, reach back with your left foot. When dog touches your left foot with left paw, click or mark and treat (C/T). Repeat until consistent. • Do the same with the right side. • Do a left, C/T, followed by a right, C/T, without forward movement. • Gradually add forward movement. Tiny step to start. • Variations: lifted foot, deep lunge.
	Limp variations	• <u>Limp in heel</u>. Lightly hold dog's left paw while you take a step forward. C/T when dog limps once. Gradually add steps. Gradually fade hand under paw to hand held above paw • <u>Limp in front toward handler</u>. Hold paw and back away from dog. Gradually fade assist. At first back away close to dog. Gradually add distance. • <u>Limp in circle</u>. Continue with limp in heel but circle and then pivot. If you want dog to limp around you, have treat in both hands and C/T 1/4, then 1/2, then 3/4 around you. This seems easier for the dog if it moves quickly. • <u>Limp between legs</u>. Start with standing hop. Handler raises one leg and pivots, hopping on one foot. Don't try this if you have balance issues!
	Back around object	• Teach circle back. When consistent, try one or a combination of these strategies: • perform circle-back while handler stands on platform. When dog is confident in this motion and has it on cue, move off the platform. • Back chain and/or use gating around object. Reward minutest of desired steps. • Cueing: I send my dog in the same direction I would do a circle-back starting on the right, so I cue <i>back</i> (to get dog moving away from me) and <i>pivot</i>. If I were sending dog in the other direction, I would use my cue for that direction.
	Spider man	• Hold a platform at slant in front of you and have a training partner back dog onto it and reward with treat <i>on floor</i> to keep dog's head down. Gradually straighten platform and perform without partner. • Remove prop so that dog backs up your legs.
	Away with prop	• Prop: cane, spear, sword, etc. with soft treat stuck to the end of it. • Make sure the dog knows the treat is on the prop. Lure the dog with the prop into an away position. Let dog take treat. Handler pivot with dog moving in large circle facing away • Gradually have dog take more steps before letting dog take treat. (E.g. you could be walking in a straight line or a circle - one step, 3, 6, 10, etc.) Frequently treat after a lower criteria. (one or two steps). • Fade the treat by starting from beginning without the treat at the end of prop. Toss treat out beyond dog to keep dog out.
	Look left, right	• With dog between your legs, cue with your hand and hold hand there • Raise duration before C/T • Fade the lure (if you use one) and then fade the physical cue to voice command
	Sleep beside	• Cue dog to lie on its side. (dog does this everyday in the living room!) • Have dog in down and lie down beside it. Cue the side lie from this position so that you are both lying down, facing the same direction. • Variation: drape your arm over your dog.