



Canine Chronicle

The Official
Publication of The
Canine Agility
Training Society, Inc.
Established June, 1989

CATS Club Meetings
2nd Wednesday
of the month 7 p.m.
MHS Community
Room

Newsletter
Submissions – including
BRAGS to:
Amee Abel
aabel98@hotmail.com
Send submissions by the 22nd
of the month.
Photos encouraged!

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November, 2011

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Holiday Tips For Agility Dogs

Welcome to the time of year when strangers invade your happy home. Holidays mean your place on the couch is filled by unfamiliar people, your living room has a tree in it, and your human is so distracted you practically have to pee on their foot to get their attention. What's a dog to do? Follow our tips to help your Agility Handler avoid some common holiday hazards.

Clean and Sober: Holiday egg-nogs and punches may entice the Agility Handler. Protect your person from any "morning after" dilemmas by lapping up any liquids left in unwatched glasses. Better still, if you see a holiday punch bowl, dip both muzzle and paws in to help curb human enthusiasm for the beverage.

Rise and Shine: Remember, even though your person may be "on vacation," Agility Handlers thrive on regular training schedules. Don't let the holidays be a time to stay snuggled on your bed. An enthusiastic early morning bark can get the most laid back of humans up

on their feet and ready to run. This is especially important if your person was out late the night before.

No Leftover Love-Handles: Protect your person from the scourge of weight gain by making sure that there are no holiday dinner leftovers to tempt him/her into overeating. There's a reason you've been trained to "go table." Eat up any turkey, etc. that has been left unguarded. Remember, as on the agility course, speed is essential.

O Christmas Tree: Who doesn't want an indoor potty for those cold winter nights? But this annual addition to the decor can be so much more—a do-it-yourself grooming tool. Just rub against the tree to use its prickly branches as a way to groom excess fur out of your coat, ridding you of tangles and adding a wonderful smell to your coat. Added bonus: Your grooming can brush those ornament thingies out of the branches. This is a post-holiday time saver, since your person won't need to store ornaments away.



From the Editor's Desk

Hi CATS,

Amazing things are happening on the CATS website -
www.canineagility.org

If you haven't clicked there in a while-go there now. I'll wait.
No, seriously-click the link above and check out CATS in the
21st Century.

Did you notice the link to News? That's where we put items of
interest to club members. Better still, we can send breaking
News straight to your digital door. It's free-but you have to
subscribe. Just type your email into the box that says "Get
CATS News by Email."

Fly your cursor over the Titles link and click on [View Titles](#) to
see a dynamic listing of the honors our dogs and handlers have
achieved over the years. See that box with members names and
dog names of all different sizes? That's cloud power-the more
information about Qs and Titles you send in, the larger your dog
and/or your name appears. Member Dana Chenier took on the
huge task of moving 20 years of accumulated titles and honors
information and putting it onto our new website. Thank you,
Dana!

Use the [Submit Your Titles](#) link (under the Titles heading) to
fill out a form that will automatically keep us all informed about
your newest accomplishments. If you have ideas for ways we can
improve this form, please drop Tammy Lenski or me an email.

Cheers,

Amee Abel
Editor

Fall Equipment Migration

All hands on deck for moving our equipment back to Kitty's barn for winter storage—**Saturday, November 19 beginning at 10 a.m.** Reschedule your schedule; if you can't make it—send your kids, your spouse, or your neighbor <g>. See you there!

Annual Meeting Date Announced: January 8, 2012

The best night of the year is coming...our CATS Annual meeting when we come together over food and drink to acknowledge all the wonderful successes we've had this year. Also on the agenda, a little club business, a chance to purchase equipment that the club no longer wishes to keep, and the opportunity to win some nice prizes.

We will be meeting at Papagallo's Restaurant in Swanzey, NH on Sunday, January 8, 2012. Please RSVP to [Cindy Stewart](#). Acknowledgment of titles—tell [Amea Abel](#) what you and your dog(s) have accomplished this year.



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**Don't give away your
voice in CATS affairs!**

Attend the members' meeting.

Our next meeting:

**7 p.m. Wednesday,
December 14**

in the Community Room at Monadnock
Humane Society.

See you then!

This Test May Save Your Dog's Life

by Amee Abel

Recently, my friend's Australian Shepherd needed emergency veterinary care. Susan* admonished the ER Vet about "herding dog medication sensitivities." Despite her warnings, her beloved Jippy received a dose of sedative that nearly sedated him to death. This shocking event wasn't a case of malpractice; it was an example of how knowing your dog's MDR1 status may save his life.

The drug my friend's Aussie received, Butorphanol, isn't inherently toxic to herding dogs. It does, however, differ in its effect on individual dogs depending on their ability to metabolize the drug.

Early in this century, researchers at Washington State University identified a mutation in the MDR1 gene that predicted which dogs would have difficulty with a number of common drugs. Because of the mutation, a common sedative becomes too sedating; an over-the-counter remedy becomes a deadly poison.

Currently, WSU's Veterinary Clinical Pharmacology Lab (VCPL) estimates that fifty percent of Aussies may be affected by this genetic mutation. High as that number is, it also means that fifty percent of Aussies aren't affected. So, the equation isn't as simple as "Aussie equals MDR1 mutation." Other breeds are estimated to have higher and lower rates of affected populations. (see sidebar.)

There are no outwardly visible signs or developmental milestones to indicate which dogs are affected. Without the evidence of a simple, inexpensive test, your veterinarian is left rolling the dice when it comes to your dog's life.

Will the standard dose be an overdose? Or, if a smaller dose is given, will the dog suffer needlessly?

Getting Tested

Testing for MDR1 gene mutations is simple and inexpensive. Unfortunately, it isn't fast. That is why it is so important to get your dog tested long before a crisis arises. You needn't go to the vet; in fact, there is only one lab in the country where the test may be performed—

Washington State University's Veterinary Clinical Pharmacology Laboratories (VCPL.) You can order the test by phone or on-line: just call (509) 335-3745 or visit their website <http://www.vetmed.wsu.edu/depts-VCPL/Orders/kitorder.aspx> and order a testing kit.

You'll receive a package that includes a little brush with which you swab the inside of your dog's cheek. It's simple for a pet owner to do at home and painless for your dog. You'll pay \$70 when you return the kit. Results will be sent to you in about 2 weeks. Once you have the results, you can arm your vet and your dog's other caregivers with information to protect your dog.

What do the results mean?

Dogs (like humans) have two alleles for each gene. These alleles can be dominant or recessive. With regards to the MDR1 gene, dogs can have one of three possible combinations. They can be homozygous recessive (in which case the MDR1 alleles

What Dogs Are At Risk?

- Collies (70%)
- Shetland Sheepdogs (15%)
- Australian Shepherds (50%)
- Old English Sheepdogs (5%)
- English Shepherds (15%)
- German Shepherds (10%)
- Long-haired Whippets (65%)
- Silken Windhounds (30%)
- Herding Breed Cross (10%)
- Mixed Breed (5%)

Estimates above are for the percent of the population affected. The only way to know if an individual dog has the mutant MDR1 gene is to have the dog tested. As more dogs are tested, researchers expect more breeds will probably be added to the list of affected breeds.

*Not their actual names.

are mutant/mutant), heterozygous (with normal/mutant alleles), or wild-types (normal/normal alleles).

In 2001, Dr. Katrina Mealey of WSU's VCPL, reported that the defective MDR1 gene impacts something called the P-gp protein molecule which plays an important role in limiting drug absorption and distribution (particularly to the brain.) This causes some drugs to become toxic, others to flush too slowly out of the body, and some to become ineffective.

It is the mutant/mutant dogs who are most at risk, though the normal/mutant dogs do show some compromised ability to tolerate and/or flush out drugs that depend on the P-gp transport. VCPL makes specific, but different recommendations regarding dosage adjustments for homozygous and heterozygous dogs. No matter what the breed, a dog who is normal/normal will tolerate standard doses of the implicated drugs. This is why testing individual dogs rather than making breed generalizations is so important.

RED ALERT

Most of the drugs that cause difficulties for MDR1 mutant dogs will only be administered by a vet—and hopefully, after you've read this article, your vet will be armed with information regarding your dog's specific MDR1 status. Alarming, one commonly used, over-the-counter remedy may spell death to your MDR1 mutant pet—loperamide.

Loperamide is the active ingredient in Imodium. If you or your dog has suffered from diarrhea, someone may have suggested this medication. It works wonders, providing your dog is not MDR1 mutant/mutant. For a mutant/mutant dog, this medicine is deadly.

Because Loperamide works faster than old-fashioned Bismuth subsalicylate (Pepto Bismal), many over-the-counter anti-diarrheals include it. So, please, read the labels carefully before you pull a remedy off the shelf for your dog!

Test your dog?

This MDR1 stuff isn't really news anymore, yet many dog owners remain uninformed about

What drugs are implicated?

Research continues to identify drugs that cause unexpected difficulties for dogs with an MDR1 mutation, but currently VCPL red flags the following drugs: **Acepromzine, Butorphanol, Emodepside, Erythromycin, Ivermetin, Loperamide, Selamectin, milbemycin, moxidectin, Vincristin, Vinblastine, and Doxorubicin.**

The list (vetmed.wsu.edu) goes on to identify a group of drugs that may cause difficulties and another group of drugs that use the P-gp molecule but for some reason don't cause problems. Clearly, there are other factors at work here; mysteries yet to be solved and researchers at VCPL are hard at work.

it. And some of those who do know about it think it's sufficient to assume "herding dog equals MDR1 mutant." Veterinarians disagree. Ignorance of a dog's MDR1 status causes needless worries, expenses, and sometimes deaths of our beloved companions. Researchers at VCPL continue to expand our understanding of how a dog's individual genetics impact the effects of medications and our understanding of which medications are problematic for dogs with the MDR1 mutation. They further expect that as they expand testing to other breeds they will discover the mutation in many other breeds.

The message is clear. It's not enough to know that your dog's breed is at risk. You need to know each individual's MDR1 status so that you and your vet can make good healthcare decisions. This is your call to action. Especially if you have a herding breed dog—find out his/her MDR1

status. Either that, or hope your vet wins the next time he rolls the medication dice.



SATURDAY NIGHT is CATS Night!

The MHS Training Center is reserved for **CATS indoor agility use this winter on Saturdays from 4 pm** to whenever. MHS will continue to update CATS when there are other empty nights on the schedule and offer to CATS members the opportunity to use the room at those times



The following Saturday's are **unavailable** for CATS use due to a public rental agreement and trials being held: **12/3, 12/10, and 12/17**. That is, the first three Saturdays of December the room is booked for other events. Please make a note of it..

USDAA Announces Intro Program



INTRO PROGRAM ONLY (IPO) EVENTS:

Ever wish you could trial at your training facility? Well now you can! The Intro Program Only Event (IPO event) is designed to be held in facilities as small as 3,200 square feet. This means many training centers may sign up as either an Affiliated Group or as an Intro Group and hold IPO events at their training center. Students and their dogs can build their ring confidence by competing at their regular training facility.

Affiliated and Intro Groups may hold an IPO the night before a sanctioned event at the show site on the show equipment. This is open to both dogs that are entered in the event the next day and dogs that are not entered in the event the next day.

FOR EXHIBITION ONLY:

At Intro Program Only events, competitors may enter their dogs already titled in USDAA "For Exhibition Only" (FEO). FEO competitors may use toys (inaudible items that remain in the hand, no food allowed) in the ring and have up to standard course time (SCT) to run their dogs in the ring. FEO is allowed when the Intro classes are held in conjunction with a regular event hosted by an affiliated group, as long as the dog is entered only in the Intro classes.

USDAA Intro Program *(continued from previous page)*

LIMITED ENTRIES:

Entries for IPO events may be limited, except when the IPO event is held the night before a sanctioned event on the show site.

JUDGING INTRO:

These tests may be judged by a USDAA approved judge, however, due to the simpler nature of the Intro Program, these classes may also be judged by a USDAA "approved" person who has sufficient experience to enable him or her to competently perform judging responsibilities. All Intro courses will be reviewed and approved for safety and consistency before they are used.

TITLES:

The Intro Program adds 17 more titles to USDAA's current 120 available titles. Competitors may earn all of their qualifying scores under one judge.

Title	Qualifying Scores Required	Required No. of Judges
Intro Standard Dog, Bronze, Silver, Gold	3, 6, 9, 12	1
Intro Jumpers Dog, Bronze, Silver, Gold	3, 6, 9, 12	1
Intro Gamblers Dog, Bronze, Silver, Gold	3, 6, 9, 12	1
Intro Snooker Dog, Bronze, Silver, Gold	3, 6, 9, 12	1
Intro Versatility Dog	3 Standard, 1 Jumpers, 1 Gamblers, 1 Snooker	1



Online Registration is available at www.monadpets.org or you may contact Alice at MHS 603-352-9011 x112 to register over the phone.

USDAA IPO Trial December 10 @ MHS



Dogs have the option to run for qualifiers and titles or FEO.

Competitors with dogs that have already earned one or more Championship or Performance titles may enter classes as FEO with A-Frame height options. FEO competitors may use toys in the ring (no food or treats are allowed). Dogs may be 14 months of age to begin competing in the Intro Program.

Entries Open now: <http://www.monadpets.org>. Day of show entries will be accepted.

HELP Wanted!

Program coordinator: Someone who is willing to put together this year's CATS Agility Seminar. Much of the work for this has been started, but we need someone who is willing to take point on this project so that we can all enjoy a weekend of Agility Training. If you are willing to explore this opportunity, please contact [Chris Frado](#)



December Meeting Features Denise Mazzola

Join your agility friends on Wednesday, December 14, at 7 p.m. to meet with trainer Denise Mazzola. You may know Denise from her TV show, Doggy Dilemmas or from Ask The Trainer, her radio spot on WKBK 1290 AM. Whether you are a long time fan or just getting to know her forthright style and dog-friendly training techniques, our

member meeting offers a unique opportunity to get her insight on your training problems. Following Denise's presentation, we will have a brief business meeting beginning at 8 p.m. Please plan to attend and help decide the important issues. Please bring your ideas and enthusiasm for our club. See you there!



Good Dogs & Happy Tales

October 8-9
USDA
Breeze Thru Agility, Guilford, VT

Chris Frado,
shared the following:



Snoop Doggy & Chris Frado
PIII Gamblers..... 1st & Q
PIII Snooker..... 1st & Super Q
Performance Speed Jumping..... 1st & Q
PIII Pairs..... 1st & Q with Spryte & Elise

Bingo & Chris Frado
PII Standard.... 1st & Q
PIII Jumpers.... 1st & Q
PIII Snooker.... 2nd & Q

Dana Chenier shared the following:



Pearl & Dana
Chenier
Starters Relay
Title!

October 8-9
NADAC
Northeast Agility Enthusiasts
Stephentown, NY,

Tammy Lenski shared the following:

Missy & Tammy
Lenski
Novice Jumpers
Title!



October 22
CPE
Bo-Gee, Deerfield, NH

Kim Kennelly shared the following:

Just wanted to pass on a brag for Kitty's little girl, Ceiko. Ceiko and I competed in our first trial on Saturday Oct 22, 2011 at the Bo-Gee CPE trial in Deerfield, NH.

Very exciting day...especially the Snooker run where Ceiko ran like a Mercedes! Ceiko earned the following in Level 2:

Snooker 1st & Q
Standard 2nd & Q
Fullhouse 2nd & Q
Wildcard 2nd



October 22-23
NADAC
Wide World of Sports
N. Smithfield, RI,

Tammy Lenski shared the following:

Donna Allen & Leo: Elite Chances
Title!

Tammy Lenski & Missy: Novice



Jumpers Title!

Tammy Lenski & Smudge:
Novice Jumpers Title!
Novice Tunnelers Title!

October 30
USDA
Y Agility, East Windsor, CT

Dana Chenier shared the following:

Before the dome collapsed from the snow, Pearl earned the following titles:

Advanced Gambler - 1st place
(only dog in entire advanced class to qualify)
Starters Snooker - 3rd place
Starters Jumpers - 2nd place

October 10
NADAC Championships
Illinois

Heidi Konesko shared the following:

Penny and I made the Scamp our home for an entire week while we attended the NADAC Champion-



ships. More to follow.

November 4-5
AKC Obedience/Rally
Williston, VT

Amee Abel shared the following:
Dana Chenier & Zig:
Rally Novice title!


Amee Abel & Loki:
Novice Obedience title!
Rally Excellent title!

Amee Abel & Spirit:
Beginner Obedience title!
Rally Novice title!

Your CATS Calendar for November 2011




Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19 
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

Schedule of Events

 • November 19—
Equipment Migration: 10
a.m.

 • December 14—7 p.m.
Member's Meeting!

 • December 3, 10, &
17—No CATS use of Train-
ing Center

• December 10—USDAA IPO
Trial at MHS

December 2011

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

				1	2	
4	5	6	7	8	9	10 
11	12	13	14 	15	16	17 
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

CATS 2011 membership list



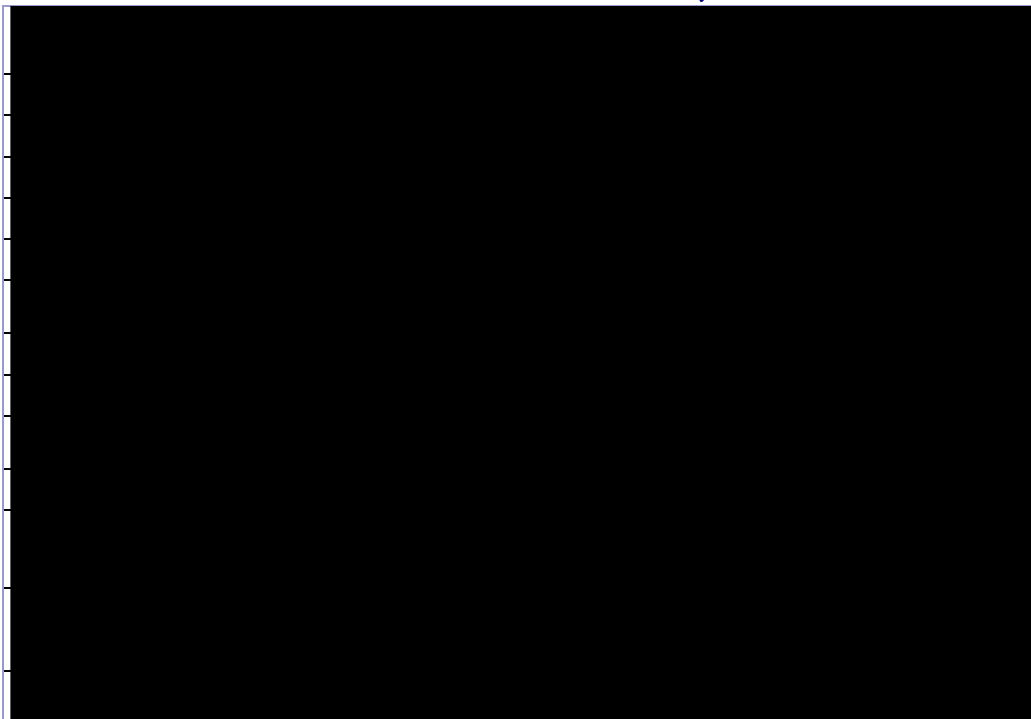
This is your speedy “instant” directory to your fellow club members.

This list includes all memberships received as of 09/01/2011.

Please let us know if there are corrections needed for your contact information.

Print this List to have a handy directory of your agility friends.

CATS 2011 membership list (continued)



This is your speedy "instant" list to your club members. .

Please let us know if there are corrections needed for your contact information.

CATS Membership Benefits — 2011



MEMBER requirements

- Fill out & sign membership form
- Pay annual membership dues - \$30 for 2011
- Must be at least 16 years of age

Benefits:

- Attend meetings, vote on club business, be a Board member and if at least 18 years of age be an Officer
- Pay reduced fee for CATS classes and seminars
- Attend social functions
- Receive "Canine Chronicle"
- Wear CATS logo

- Use CATS training equipment (requires member be identified as, or be supervised by, an Advanced Handler*)
- Pay discounted fees for MHS Agility classes as allowed in the current CATS/MHS contract
- Receive CATS discounted entry for CATS-sponsored trials in exchange for trial work.
- Attend member-only Training Seminars

**CATS Advanced Handler is determined by the Training Committee*



CATS -- CANINE AGILITY TRAINING SOCIETY

CATS Board of Directors

President
Chris Frado—2012
ccsaa@xcski.org

Vice President
Cindy Stewart—2012
csb2@starz.mv.com

Secretary
Dayle Ziesmer—2012
cairnz@myfairpoint.net

Treasurer
Ray Spring—2011

Board of Directors
Pat Grace—2013
Karen Mockler—2011
Amee Abel—2013
Judy Davis—2013
Deb Coll - 2011

We're on the web at
www.canineagility.org

CATS 2011 COMMITTEES

Training Committee

Donna Allen
Kitty Arsenault
Diane Gibbons
Heidi Konesko
Lynn Smitley

Social/Membership Committee

Carol Stephens
Cindy Stewart
Gayle Treat

Equipment Committee

Paul Gibbons
Alex Kalish
Donna Proudfoot

CPE Liaison

Judy Davis

USDAA Liaison

Chris Frado

NADAC Liaison

Lynn Smitley

Audit Committee

Jackie Smith

Dayle Zeismer

Monthly Meeting Speaker Coordinator

Noel Aderer

Trial Committee – USDAA

Chris Frado, Chairperson
Judy Davis
Holly Morin
Leslie Vassall

Trial Committee – CPE

Pat Grace, Co-Chairperson
Cindy Stewart, Chairperson
Judy Davis
Diane Gibbons
Carol Stephens

Show 'n' Go Committee

Donna Allen, Chairperson

Memorial Bench Committee

Heidi Konesko
Donna Proudfoot

Keene Parks & Recreation Liaison

Holly Morin

CATS Librarian

Heidi Konesko

CATS Web Site

Gaale Klein (emeritus)
Tammy Lenski

Canine Chronicle Editor

Amee Abel

Nominating Committee

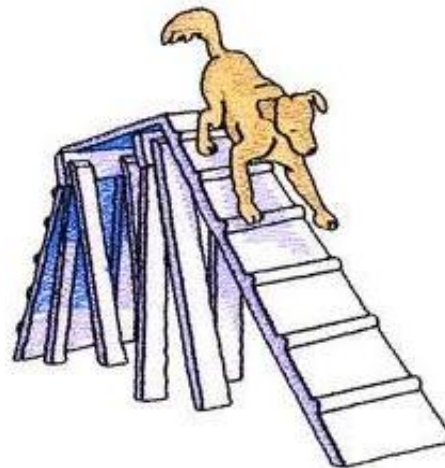
TBA
(appointed by Board of Directors)

Upcoming CATS Events 2011—Save these Dates

CPE:

September 17 & 18
Chair, Cindy Stewart
and Co-Chair, Pat

Grace
Secretary, Judy Davis,
Trial Secretary Services



Info on Other Upcoming Agility Trials

Go to these web-
sites if you want
information on
upcoming trials.

USDAA www.usdaa.com

CPE www.k9cpe.com

NADAC www.nadac.com

AKC www.akc.org