



GROWL

ESTABLISHED 1958

FEBRUARY 2014

AKC CHAIRMAN'S REPORT - JANUARY 2014

A New Year, An Evolving AKC

With a new year come new perspectives. Fresh resolutions allow us to look to the future, tackle our goals head on and make change a reality. It is a time to learn from the past and to embrace new starts and new ideas.

In my past reports, I've made no secret to the fact that AKC registrations are declining, yet on the mend. From 2011 to 2012, dog registrations experienced a 10 percent drop. That number improved in 2013, with only a three percent decrease from the previous year – one of the lowest rates of registration decline in a decade. We are encouraged by the improvement of our numbers in the past year, due in large part to business decisions and programs set in motion to revive registrations. In addition, 2013 litter registrations had one of the lowest rates of decline in a decade, also, with a five percent decrease from 2012. The positive disparity between litter registration and dog registration is predominantly due to our successful Breeder of Merit program. We are continuing our efforts to increase participation in Breeder of Merit

and we are developing new breeder programs and education seminars. Additional consumer offerings are in the works to make registration more appealing to the general dog owner.

AKC will continue to seek opportunities to further promote registrations and

maintain their recovery.

However, as we face a new year, it is time to acknowledge that registrations are unlikely to remain AKC's primary, long-term revenue source or method for engagement with dog owners. Nor should they. Just as with New Year's resolutions, it is time to gaze ahead and embrace transformation at our organization. There is no doubt that dog owners are still in love with predictable purebreds. What is clear is that they are less interested in the papers to prove it. It is also clear that our decision to open the AKC to mixed breed dogs through AKC Canine Partners is connecting with new people every day. While AKC's Facebook page currently holds more than 1.1 million fans with 74% engagement (an astronomically higher rate than the standard four percent achieved by other brands), 2013 dog registrations totaled only 479,404.

Our traditional forms of face-to-face engagement are as strong as ever. However, it is crucial to look towards the future and acknowledge that they won't always be enough. Today's consumers are increasingly connecting with brands, products and organizations in the digital and mobile spaces, not in the show ring. AKC Board and Staff have recognized the organization must embrace a progressive business model to meet an evolving marketplace. AKC must be as relevant to dog lovers today as it was to the group of sporting gentlemen in search of uniform dog show rules 130 years ago.

In response, we are implementing a customer centric approach, making the "AKC

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VISIT US ONLINE AT WWW.RAMAPOKENNELCLUB.COM

President's Message



JACK GRASSA

Sharon Fremer

As a television talking head so aptly put it this morning: Welcome to Februweary. I think we can all agree that there has already been more than enough snow for this winter. I know many of us have dogs that enjoy romping in the

snow, but it'd be nice if Mother Nature eased off the precipitation for the remaining weeks of cold weather. Fingers crossed!

The Westminster Kennel Club's 138th conformation show will be held the Monday and Tuesday before our February meeting (Feb 12th).

Saturday, February 8th, will be Westminster's inaugural Masters Agility Championship trial. It will also be the first time mixed breed (aka All American) dogs are welcomed to a WKC event. Hopefully they will continue to add things like Obedience and Rally to their mix in the future so that many activities are represented. Whether you attend as an exhibitor or a spectator or you watch from the comfort of your home, this show does a great job of jump-starting people's enthusiasm for the upcoming conformation show year. Ramapo's last two handling classes quadrupled in size, many of the dogs being first-timers to a class. We also had several dogs that will compete in Best of Breed. I know at least several members are also entered

with their dogs. Best of luck to you! May you all present your dogs beautifully and have fun

doing it. I look forward to the next meeting's Brags session.

If you want something fun to do on Saturday, February 8th, check this out. The American Kennel Club will hold an award ceremony to present the first AKC Dog-Friendly Community Award to the Village of Ridgewood, New Jersey on Saturday, February 8th at 1:00 p.m. in Ridgewood, New Jersey. The award honors dog-friendly communities and/or community officials and the actions they have taken that promote the well being of dogs in their community. In 2013, the town created the Ridgewood Responsible Pet Ownership Committee, which has hosted numerous educational events throughout the year, including a free microchip clinic and a dog body language seminar. Ramapo KC contributed to the microchip clinic and will continue to help Ridgewood and other towns as they create committees similar to Ridgewood's and work to educate their residents about dogs and other pets. Congratulations to Jeffrey Ball for initiating these efforts and working with the various towns that have expressed interest in following Ridgewood's example.

There will be no Board meeting next Wednesday, February 12th, only a general membership meeting. We did not invite a speaker as the February meeting is so often canceled due to bad weather. Instead, it is an ideal time to ask a few of our members to speak to the group about their chosen breeds. It's always interesting to learn something new and this is a great way to do it. If you would like to volunteer to speak for 5 to 10 minutes about your breed, please contact me for more details. My email and cell are listed in the paragraph below.

If there is any question about whether a meeting will be held please be sure to check before heading out the door. We will try to get any cancellations posted on the website as well as try to use the call tree to notify everyone. Please feel free to call my cell phone (201-665-2565) or email me (teneo@mac.com) if you are unsure.

Sharon

Ramapo Kennel Club Officers

President

Sharon Fremer
teneo@mac.com

Vice President

Arlene Stover

Treasurer

Ruth Henningsen

Recording Secretary

Kim Luikert

Corresponding Secretary

Tilly Grassa
tgcreative@aol.com

Board of Directors

2014

Joanne Silver
Gerrie Oliver

2015

Rose Radel
Amy Starost

2016

Lorraine Fennemore
Janis Hayes

AKC Delegate

Jeffrey David Ball

Minutes

RKC Member Meeting
January 8th 2014
VFW Hall
Fairfield, NJ 07004

Dr. Karen Dashfield gave an informative presentation on Disaster Readiness.

Sharon Fremer called the meeting to order at 9:12pm

Recording Secretary- Amy Starost made a motion to accept the November minutes, Ruth Henningsen seconded, voted upon and approved.

Treasurer- November's balance in checking was \$20,199.33 and money market was \$22,790.27. Still waiting on Palisades KC for figures on 2013 Point Show.

Obedience Classes- People signing up for February's classes already.

Pet Therapy- Chilton and Valley Hospitals are both open.

Match Show- Joanne Silver made a motion to have Melissa Ayer chair the Jun 7th 2014 Match show, seconded by Rose, voted upon and approved. Melissa will need an assistant as well as a Obedience liaison. Amy Starost volunteered to be the

Obedience liaison. Anyone wanting to help out please see Melissa. A discussion was had on the possibility of holding the Match show at Sunnybank in Wayne vs. The Veteran's home.

AKC Delegate- RKC sent a letter supporting Pat Scully for the Board of the AKC. Jeffrey explained about the Pilot program of small clubs having two shows on one day. Jeffrey Ball has earned "Bailey's Outstanding Spokesman Award"

NJFDC- February 8th is a tentative date that Ridgewood has set for accepting the very first "Pet Friendly Community Award" Jeffrey Ball asked for volunteers to come and represent RKC and have a table to hand out AKC information.

February Refreshments- Jeffrey will bring refreshments to the February 12th meeting.

Elaine Barone made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:47 pm seconded by Gerrie Oliver, voted on and approved.

Respectfully submitted by:
Kim Luikert
January 12th 2014

RKC ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

Attention Members!

The RKC Achievement Award Nomination forms are on pages 5-7. Please remember to apply for your achievement awards each year. There are many categories in which you may qualify. Please check the website Ramapokennelclub.com for the complete list of categories. Descriptions and requirements for Special Club awards are also listed in the front portion of your Roster. Applications due by April 15, 2014.

VIEW FROM THE OTHER END OF THE LEASH

Usually I write about my own adventures and escapades, but this is all about the challenges the RKC obedience instructors met with two exceptional dogs in the current class series...both dogs are older than the usual KPT puppy, but due to their special needs, they were placed at the most basic level...

Baby's story starts with a phone call by a new owner to Elaine Barone asking if we would work with a deaf pit bull mix...the owner was encouraged to come observe the next KPT class and let the instructors evaluate the dog...

Baby is a white deaf pit bull mix who was left tied outside, malnourished, and showing signs of physical abuse...DYFUS was in the process of removing children from the unsafe household ...Baby was estimated to be about 7 months old when the caller found him in a bar and agreed to take him...

Fortunately this conscientious man read up on acclimation to a new environment, which included two other dogs and at least one middle school child, and working with a deaf animal...he had begun building trust and teaching hand signals...more important the whole family is on the same page and Baby is getting consistent input...

Although, Baby is technically Joanne Silver's student, all the RKC instructors work with the man and his family...there has been a lot of one-on-one instruction

sometimes loses attention, but he responds to a gentle poke and refocuses on the task at paw...he's a sweet, gentle, observant guy who works hard to thank his family for a second chance...the RKC instructors are proud of this family's efforts to rehab this now 11-month-old who didn't get the socialization and attention during critical development...we look forward to his return to the next class level and helping this family teach him more skills...hopefully there is a CGC in his future...

Ruth Henningsen shared Quinn's story before he started in KPT:

Quinn at 8 yrs old, and his kennel mate Quila 12 yrs old, were rescued in April 2013. They were brought to a vet in NY state to be put to sleep as they were no longer wanted. "Quinn" did not even have a name until the drive home from NY.

Little did I know that he not only had to be taught his name—that was the easy part. He would not have eye contact and petting was not really something he knew.

He would not walk with a collar and leash, he had never been in a house, walked through a doorway, went up or down stairs, would not walk on the kitchen floor, etc, etc. But no matter what his tail was always wagging! He was and still is the sweetest boy!

So----at 8 yrs old Quinn was enrolled in RKC puppy kindergarten. The first night was getting him up the stairs onto my porch, then into the house, through the kitchen, out another door and into the van. That took at least 20 minutes! Then at class, through another doorway, up more stairs, another doorway and into a strange room.

Poor Quinn—what have I gotten myself into?

He soon found that he was just a little bigger than the other "kids" but loved all of them. He definitely needed to get out and experience life. Not knowing anything he slowly accepted training in class and started to accept things the same as a 6

month old puppy. And he just loved his special treats!

I will now let our "star reporter" Miss Friday finish Quinn's journey.

The first night Quinn came to the RKC training site, he barked at the stairs, all four legs locked up...he finally



Baby, a white deaf pit bull mix, relaxing left and focusing on the task at paw, right.

and problem solving these last seven weeks...when baby doesn't respond to traditional training cues, we get inventive...roll your wrists like an NFL umpire and Baby does a fast recall...he responds to body language and vibrations from the floor...he still does puppy play and

RAMAPO KENNEL CLUB ACHIEVEMENT AWARD NOMINATIONS

CALENDAR YEAR JAN. 1, 2013 THROUGH DEC. 31, 2013

Reg. Name of Dog _____
Dog _____ Bitch _____
AKC# _____ Breed/Variety _____

Owner(s) _____

Address _____

Breeder _____

Owned by member(s) _____ Bred by Member(s) _____

Handled by Member(s) _____

*Indicate name of RKC Member who is to receive the award.

CATEGORY

HIGHEST ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

BIS (All Breed) Show _____ Date _____ Country _____

BIS (Specialty) Show _____ Date _____ Country _____

High in Trial Show _____ Date _____ Country _____

Best in Field Trial Show _____ Date _____ Country _____

CHAMPIONSHIP AWARDS

Conformation Champion Show _____ Date _____ Country _____

Grand Champion Show _____ Date _____

Obedience Trial Champion Show _____ Date _____ Country _____

Field Trial Champion Show _____ Date _____ Country _____

OBEDIENCE DEGREE AWARDS

BN,PCD,CD,GN,PCDX,CDX,GO,PUTD,UD,UDX,VER,TD,TDX,RN,RA,RE,RAE, OM,OGM

TITLE

_____ Show _____ Date _____

_____ Show _____ Date _____

_____ Show _____ Date _____

OTHER AKC TITLES (Herding, Field, Agility etc.)

_____ Show _____ Date _____ Country _____

_____ Show _____ Date _____ Country _____

_____ Show _____ Date _____ Country _____

Photocopies of all AKC Titles must be sent with entry. No awards will be given without photocopies. NO EXCEPTIONS!! Non-AKC Titles will only count towards the breeders' award and certificates of achievement. Temperament testing is a Non-AKC Title.

RAMAPO KENNEL CLUB ACHIEVEMENT AWARD NOMINATION, continued

Non-Regular Awards and Requirements

Additional Non-AKC Awards (CGC, TT, etc., applicable for Certificate of Achievement only)

_____ Show _____	_____ Date _____	_____ Country _____
_____ Show _____	_____ Date _____	_____ Country _____
_____ Show _____	_____ Date _____	_____ Country _____
_____ Show _____	_____ Date _____	_____ Country _____
_____ Show _____	_____ Date _____	_____ Country _____

AENNCHEN ANTONELLI/GILMA BLAUVELT - MOSS BREEDERS AWARD

1. Award to be won by a club member who is the breeder of record of the dogs winning the most titles in each calendar year. Dogs do not need to be owned by the club member. It is the total number of titles won which determines the winner, not the number of individual dogs.
2. Any recognized titles shall be included, ie Champion, Obedience, Field, Working Dog, etc.
3. Titles may be won in any country of the world.

LEE ABRAHAM AWARD FOR BREEDER OF THE YEAR

Presented to the owner of the bitch who:

1. Produced the most champions (bred by owner from one bitch only) during the calendar year.
2. Only American Kennel Club Championships to count.

MILLIE MC CABE AWARD FOR STUD DOG OF THE YEAR

Presented to the owner of the Stud Dog who:

1. Produced the most "Champions" during the calendar year.
2. Only American Kennel Club Championships to count.

WILLIAM AND RUBY KLEINMANN'S MEMORIAL AWARD

This Award is figured from January 1, 2013 thru December 31, 2013, for the June 2013 Award. This award will be based on the greatest number of dogs defeated in breed competition (up to and including Best in Show) by a single dog **handled by its Owner**. Dogs owned or co-owned by a Professional handler are excluded. If the dog is owned and handled by more than one member (neither of which is a Professional handler), both members will share the award equally.

LESLEE VALENTE MEMORIAL TROPHY FOR EXCELLENCE IN OBEDIENCE

This award is given to a member who handled the dog with the highest average scores in AKC Novice A or B from January 1, 2013, thru December 31, 2013. Minimum of three scores required. Shows and scores must be provided. Winner is to retain custody of the award for the year.

RAMAPO KENNEL CLUB GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP AWARD

The following rules govern the choice of the recipient of this award each year.

1. This award is presented to the RKC member who has provided dedicated service to the club and the sport of purebred dogs.

RAMAPO KENNEL CLUB ACHIEVEMENT AWARD NOMINATION, continued

2. Award is given to a club member who has received the most letters of recommendation by the membership.
3. In the event of a tie the recipient shall be chosen by the Board of Directors from those individuals recommended by letters from the membership.
4. To be presented at the June Awards Dinner. Recipient only may be told to insure their being present.

American Kennel Club Outstanding Sportsmanship Award

1. This award celebrates those individuals who deserve special recognition for having made a difference in the sport of purebred dogs, embody the AKC code of sportsmanship, and have been an active and valued member of an AKC member club. The award is given to a club member who has been nominated and approved by the majority of the board of directors and officers PRIOR to the May meeting and shall be presented at the June awards dinner. The awards chair will be notified by April 15th. The recipient only may be notified by the awards chair to insure their being present.

Eligibility for Ramapo Kennel Club Awards

In order to apply and receive any Achievement Awards, members must fulfill at least two of the following:

1. Work the Point Show.
2. Work the Match Show.
3. Attend two (2) Club Meetings
4. Work at Obedience and/or Show Handling Classes
5. Work on a Club Committee.
6. Participate in a Public Education Demonstration through the Club
7. Participate in a Pet Therapy Session through the Club.

(Life Members or members living more than 60 miles from show functions are exempt)

In addition, to give recognition to a greater number of members, Achievement Awards will be limited to three (3) consecutive wins by a member.

All award entries must be received by APRIL 15th, 2014 with photocopies of Wins and Titles to:

**ELAINE BARONE
10 BIRCH ROAD
KINNELON, NJ 07405-2505
E-mail elaineb.bowow@juno.com**

YOU MAY E-MAIL ELAINE YOUR LETTERS FOR THE "GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP AWARD"

Feel free to e-mail your awards ONLY if you can scan the forms and certificates required.
Thank you, and Elaine looks forward to hearing from all of you.

SHOW HANDLING SCHEDULE -2014

TUESDAY EVENINGS

6:45 - 7:30

DROP IN CLASSES ONLY

\$10.00 per dog

Apr. 1, 15, 29

May 6, 20

June 3, 17

Feb. 18

Mar. 4, 18

FMI: LINDA HACHTEL

973-697-4337

or rkc@ramapokennelclub.com

RKC TRAINING CLASS SCHEDULE -2014

TUESDAY EVENING-Rally Advanced/Excellent

7:30-8:30

SESSION 3

Feb. 18, 25

Mar. 4, 18, 25

Apr. 1, 15

SESSION 4

Apr. 22, 29

May 6, 20, 27

June 3, 17

Pet Training/Obedience Schedule

WEDNESDAY EVENINGS

SESSION 2

Jan. 15, 22, 29

Feb. 5

February 19 Canine Good Citizen Testing/snow day
(there is a fee for the test)

SESSION 3

Feb. 26

Mar. 5, 19, 26

Apr. 2, 16,

23

SESSION 4

Apr. 30

May 7, 21, 28

June 4, 18, 25

June 24 (Tuesday) Canine Good Citizen Testing/ snow day

(there is a fee for the test)

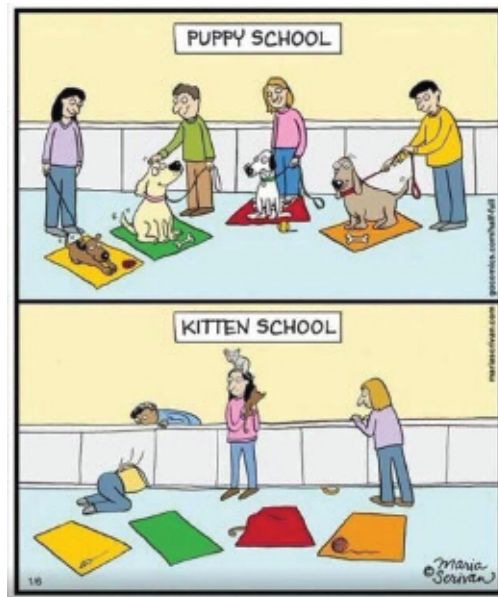
FOR CLASS INFORMATION AND TIMES CONTACT:

RUTH HENNINGSEN 973-697-9456 or email at:

RUTHH.SNO-DOG@JUNO.COM

OR JOANNE SILVER 201-891-5090

JOANNE.SILVER1937@YAHOO.COM



VIEW FROM THE OTHER END OF THE LEASH, *from page 4*

crated, but wasn't happy...he didn't have the company of Quila, with whom he'd been kenneled his whole life and who told him what/when/how to do everything...coming out of the crate and walking on a slippery floor was scary...being touched was scary...lots of people and dogs were scary...walking on a leash was scary...the world was scary!...

Entering KPT, Quinn had no idea what to do...he stood stock still with his gaze diverted, initially too traumatized to accept treats...as the rest of the class worked around the perimeter of the room, Quinn and Ruth used the center of the space to acclimate...no demands, just social adjustment...after 15 minutes, Quinn was exhausted...this was hard work...

A couple of weeks into the series, Quinn came out of his crate and voluntarily stepped on the slippery wood floor and then the rubber mat...HUGE!...he learned that

yummy rewards followed walking next to Ruth...HUGE!...a couple more weeks and he acknowledged an instructor and accepted touching...HUGE!...

Now after seven weeks of class...Quinn greets me and the other instructor's dogs, seeks petting, makes some eye contact, and is animated with tail flying...the biggest milestone happened when he finally went up and over the A-frame and amazed everyone by going through the tunnel...MEGA HUGE!...Quinn is less fearful, more adventurous, and increasingly socialized after years of domination and neglect...

Both Baby and Quinn prove that with customized training, gentle encouragement and consistent approach, you CAN teach an old dog new tricks...

*Casbar Glen Wild Weekend CD, RE, RL3, ThD, CGC, STAR
(but you can call me "Friday")*

AKC CHAIRMAN'S REPORT, *from page 1*

experience" as easy as possible through significant investments in digital and by building relationships with all dog owners. The growth and success of our social media and PR efforts is strong ground from which to build. AKC's fans across social media platforms, including Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and Google+ grew by more than 60 percent in 2013. Proactive, positive public relations efforts garnered more than 22 billion impressions in 2013, a significant increase from the previous year.

In tandem with a strong social following, we are placing focus on successfully introducing and growing owned digital products. WOOFipedia, a digital/mobile platform soft-launched in November 2013, is AKC's solution for the younger generation to both learn about breeds and responsible dog ownership, as well as share engaging moments and activities between them and their dog.

We are investing in customer relationship management and the development of a strong database of dog lovers across the country. Partnering with major tech companies like Marketo, whose team guides us in the implementation of improved customer management, allows AKC to put business intelligence at the center of business decisions.

We are focused on aggressively marketing and

promoting AKC's physical products that immediately appeal to every dog owner. Items like Reggie Box, a compact offering of toys and treats delivered to your doorstep, and Good Dog Helpline, a service that provides professional training insights on the other end of the telephone, are gateways for AKC to bring dog loving consumers into our world.

For every purebred owner who doesn't understand why registration matters, we must find and seize an opportunity to engage. For every dog owner – no matter what the dog – looking for ways to engage with their dog that are fun, educational, and health conscious, we must find and seize opportunities to provide those experiences. And instead of declaring that declining forms of traditional revenue equate to the demise of our organization, we must embrace evolution. It's a new year, and it's time for a new AKC.

As always, your comments and suggestions are welcome at atk@akc.org.

*Sincerely,
Alan Kalter Chairman*

GOT STUFF?

Send your news, brags, suggestions, comments and photos to Tilly Grassa, tgcreative@aol.com.

Remember the *Growl* comes out about a week before each monthly meeting. Check the calendar on the last page for submission deadlines. The *Growl* is by and for the members so I need your help to make it interesting.



GROWL

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973-633-5254

Dates to remember:

All membership meetings are held at

**VFW HALL
45 PLYMOUTH STREET
FAIRFIELD, NJ AT 8:00 PM
(unless otherwise noted)**

WEDNESDAY, February 12

RKC Member Meeting. No BOD meeting. Program TBA

WEDNESDAY, February 26

Deadline for March Growl submissions

WEDNESDAY, March 12

RKC Member Meeting. Program: TBA



GROWL

11 Pershing Avenue
Ridgewood, NJ 07450

FIRST CLASS MAIL